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PM, COAS, cabinet members, senior govt officials attend meeting Govt unveils Economic Revival Plan to exploit Pakistan's potential, facilitate investment

Economy being steered towards growth with "bold decisions": PM.; COAS assures full support for govt's economic recovery plan; Emphasises crucial role of this plan in securing Pakistan's socio-economic prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government, in the wake of economic hardships confronting the country, Tuesday unveiled an elaborated 'Economic Revival Plan' with a view to capitalize Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors, fast-track the development projects and facilitate investment.

The Plan was unveiled during a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and attended by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), chief ministers, federal and provincial ministers, and high-level government officials, a PM Office press release said. The Economic Revival Plan envisages capitalizing Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors of defence production, agriculture, livestock, minerals, mining, information technology and energy, through indigenous development as well as investments from friendly countries.

To fast-track the development of projects, the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) has been undertaken to act as a 'Single Window' interface for the potential investors as well as to adopt a unified approach.

The setup will shorten heretofore cumbersome and lengthy business processes through a cooperative and collaborative 'whole of the government approach' with representation of all stakeholders. It is aimed at creating horizontal-vertical synergy between the federation and provinces; facilitating timely decision making; avoiding duplication of effort; and ensuring swift project implementation.

The high-ranking participation from federal and provincial governments, clearly manifests the national resolve to turn around the economy despite all odds.

The COAS, speaking on the occasion, assured the Pakistan Army's all-out support to complement the government's efforts for Economic Revival Plan, considered fundamental to socio-economic prosperity of Pakistanis and reclaiming Pakistan's rightful stature among the comity of nations.

He said the dream of a prosperous and developed Pakistan could only be fulfilled by rising above mutual differences, burying the conspiracies, and maintaining rule of law in the country.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Margalla Avenue here, the prime minister said the country possessed huge natural resources as it had the best minds and manpower as well.

"The only thing that laps is the will to do", he said adding that although it was a difficult task but not impossible to bring the country out of crisis.

He said all the initiatives were being taken for



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a ceremony for signing of agreement for Unit 5 of Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (C-5).

Inaugurates Margalla Avenue, Sikandar-Azam road PM calls upon nation, political parties to get together for country's uplift

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called upon the nation and all political parties to work together for bringing the country out of crisis and taking it to new heights of development.

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He said all the initiatives were being taken for

the development and prosperity of people of Islamabad and its attached areas.

However, he said due to the past government's criminal negligence, the citizens of the federal capital had to wait for years to enjoy their due facilities.

He said last year was devastating both in terms of natural calamities and on the political front as the country faced devastating floods and the political opponents hatched conspiracies against the country. Their agenda surfaced on May 9, 2023 when everyone saw that what they did was never thought by the enemy of Pakistan," he added.

He said despite the challenges, the CDA Chairman, former MNA Hanif Abbasi and their team who worked diligently to complete this project for which the people of Islamabad were waiting for years.

He said recently he

visited Baku, where he saw smooth and clean roads and beautiful landscape and gardening along the roads.

He advised Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah to take his team to Baku to get their first hand experience and apply in Pakistan as well.

PM Shehbaz said today he also witnessed the signing of an MoU for a \$3.48 billion Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (C-5) which reflected the Chinese resolve to support Pakistan in difficult times.

He said Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE were also Pakistan's unmatched friendly countries that were also supporting Pakistan at this difficult time.

The prime minister said his political opponents alleged him for getting big kickbacks on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. "If that was true, Imran Khan should have presented the proof before the courts," he added.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad offering fateha after laying floral wreath on the mausoleum of Quaid-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Mayor Karachi Murtaza says: Wall-chalking, plastic bags to be completely banned in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi will be made a 'Clean & Green' city after banning wall-chalking and banning plastic bags in the city by ensuring strict implementation of laws.

He said this while presiding over a meeting of departmental heads after reaching the KMC head office on Tuesday.

He said that one window operation will be started to provide services and other facilities.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad said that

we thank the citizens of Karachi for the trust they have placed in us.

He said that his first priority is to stabilize Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) financially while cleaning of drains is the topmost challenge at this time, therefore measures should be taken to deal with the rains of the monsoon season. The citizens will see a change, in the next hundred days, he added. On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Afzal Zaidi were also present.

FIA to launch massive crackdown on human smugglers in Sindh, Balochistan

KARACHI (INP): Following the Greece boat tragedy, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has decided to launch a crackdown on human traffickers and their facilitators in Sindh and Balochistan.

The decision was taken by the additional director general FIA South. The zonal directors have been directed to constitute committees in Karachi, Hyderabad and Quetta.

The relevant zonal director in each zone will be the head of his committee in accordance with the orders issued by the FIA Additional Director General South?

These committees

will submit a weekly campaign performance report against the agents involved in human trafficking.

Earlier, Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Director General Mohsin Hassan Butt issued directives to further intensify crackdowns against human traffickers after the Greece boat tragedy in which dozens of Pakistanis were killed and missing. DG FIA Mohsin Hassan Butt chaired a high-level session at the agency's headquarters in Islamabad.

A report was presented regarding the sorrowful boat accident off the coast of Greece last week.

Bilawal, Greece FM discuss ferry tragedy

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday telephoned Greece Foreign Minister Vassilis Kaskarelis.

Taking to his twitter handle, Bilawal Bhutto said that during the telephonic conversation, they discussed important issues of bilateral interests.

Bilawal Bhutto and Vassilis Kaskarelis

agreed to closely work together to facilitate Pakistanis in distress and for the identification and repatriation of retrieved bodies.

During the conversation, they discussed the tragic ferry disaster off the coast of Greece.

Bilawal termed his conversation with Greece Foreign Minister regarding ferry tragedy body recovery as very successful.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Denmark, Shoaib Sarwar called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PBS mobile application to be launched on June 22: Memon

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Transport & Mass Transit Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon on Tuesday announced that Peoples Bus Service (PBS) mobile application will be launched on June 22. The minister made the announcement while chairing a transport department meeting here.

During the meeting, the minister was briefed on the operation of the bus service, its new routes. Under the intelligent transport system, vehicles will be monitored, CCTV cameras, audio systems, USB ports, Wi-Fi communication systems, driver alarms will also be installed in the buses, the meeting told. Furthermore, the mobile app will facilitate citizens in tracking buses in real-time and make payments online, while CCTV cameras, screens, live tracking and monitoring facilities will be activated with the installation of the FIS in the buses. The minister also issued instructions to resolve the problem of chargers of electric buses on a priority basis. The meeting was told that 20 green buses will reach Karachi by August 20 and will be inducted into People's Bus Service. The Sindh government wants to end the travel troubles of the people, plans will also be started to connect the rural areas of Karachi, Hyderabad, Larkana, Sukkur and Mirpurkhas with the urban areas through People's Bus Service, Sharjeel Inam Memon.

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Pakistan, Russia agree to further diversify bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Russian sides on Tuesday reiterated their strong desire to deepen and diversify bilateral relations based on the principles of mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

The fifth round of Pakistan-Russia Bilateral Political Consultations was held here. Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko, led their respective sides, Foreign Spokesperson said in a press release. Special Representative on Afghanistan, Ambassador Zamir

Kabulov was also part of the Russian delegation. The two sides engaged in comprehensive and productive discussions to further strengthen bilateral cooperation and to deepen understanding on regional and global issues of mutual interest. "The talks encompassed a wide range of topics including political, economic, defence, energy and people-to-people contacts," the spokesperson said. The two sides also expressed satisfaction at the upward trajectory of cooperation in the field of energy and agreed to expand cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms. Hina Rabnani Khar addressing during World Refugee day organized by the office of the United Nations for Refugees at local hotel.

Appointment of 250 employees in PIA case: When there is no aeroplane how operation will run: SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has summoned representatives of auditor companies of PIA in case pertaining to permission for appointment of 250 employees in PIA.

The matter came up for hearing before a two members bench of SC presided over by Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan Tuesday.

Counsel for PIA Suleman Akram Raja has sought permission from SC through the petition in respect of 250 cabin crew.

The court has asked questions about operations and finance in previous hearing. The replies to

court's questions have been filed.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan inquired on this occasion how much aircrafts and crew PIA is having at present.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) told PIA has 31 aircrafts and 341 crew. Cabin crew is highly essential.

Finance head PIA told the court flights cannot be run on various routes due to non availability of crew. The total loss of PIA stands at 383 billion. In last financial year loss to the tune of Rs 88 billion had occurred. If previous year loss is separated from PIT then

improvement can come. Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan while expressing annoyance remarked what are you talking. When there are no aero-planes now then how will you fly. Is PIA earning profit. PIA acquires how much grant from government.

Additional Attorney General told PIA performance has remained better in 9 months.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked PIA has outsourced all hajj operations. When there is no aeroplane then how the operations will run. The court adjourned the hearing of the case till July 05.



KARACHI: A delegation of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee led by its Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House.

Ruet-e-Hilal Committee delegation calls on Governor

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of Ruet-e-Hilal Committee led by its Chairman Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad called on Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor House here on Tuesday.

The delegation included Regional Ruet-e-Hilal Committee members, the DG Ministry of Religious Affairs, the chief meteorologist, and others.

They discussed with the Governor the need for agreement on the crescent regarding important months, and other issues of mutual interest.

Governor Kamran Tessori assured Ulema of full support in all issues pertaining to moon sightings and said the inclusion of Ulema belonging to different schools of thought as members made the Committee a dignified one.

Dar begs help from British HC for IMF deal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance minister Ishaq Dar has begged help from British High Commissioner to make deal with International Monetary Fund (IMF).

British High Commissioner will talk to IMF about restoration of program. According to sources Revenue minister Ishaq Dar came in action to get IMF program. Finance minister held virtual meeting with British High Commissioner.

In meeting Ishaq Dar informed British High Commissioner about economic situation and suspension of IMF program. Source told that Ishaq Dar requested British High Commissioner to help for IMF deal. British High Commissioner assured Ishaq Dar over his help to make IMF deal.

President approves Maternity and Paternity Leave Bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday gave his assent to the Maternity and Paternity Leave Bill, 2023.

Under the Bill, the women employees of the public and private departments under administrative control of the Federal Government will be entitled to avail maternity leave with full pay for three times during service - 180 days for first time, 120 days for second time and 90 days for third time. Similarly, the male employees will be entitled to avail paternity leave of 30 days only for three times.



KARACHI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon presides over the high level meeting held at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Health for all

Though the situation may have improved since the time of independence, Pakistan's health indicators are hardly satisfactory. Far too many Pakistanis die preventable, early deaths, while debilitating diseases affect the quality of life and productivity of millions. This is mostly because despite the power wielders' stated commitments to improve the lot of the masses, human development is not a priority for our elite. When members of the elite fall sick, they can opt for the best healthcare money can buy at private medical facilities in the country, or better still, fly off to foreign locales where they are healed in well-equipped hospitals, staffed by competent medical professionals. For the middle and working classes in this country, the choices are far fewer. Should the common man get sick, he can either pay through the nose and be admitted to a private hospital, or opt for suboptimal public health facilities, or die a slow, painful death. To ameliorate this dismal state of affairs, the HRCP has rightly called for making health a fundamental part of the Constitution. This call needs to be heeded by local authorities as well as those in parliament.

Though many of the rights enshrined in the Constitution are denied to the people, incorporating health in the nation's basic law will at least correct the direction. As the WHO states, health is "a fundamental right of every human being", one that is unfortunately denied to millions of Pakistanis. Our high rates of neonatal mortality and child stunting, high burden of hepatitis C and tuberculosis, as well as the fact that this country is amongst the two remaining states in the world where polio has not been eradicated, point to only a few of our considerable health challenges. However, all these problems can be tackled, should the state prioritise people's health. Acknowledging health as a fundamental constitutional right, as was done with education in the 18th Amendment, is the first step. This needs to be followed up by strengthening primary healthcare across the nation, specifically in the less-developed parts of rural Sindh and Balochistan, where healthcare is available only in rudimentary form.

If all goes as planned a general election will be held in a few months. Therefore, as pointed out by experts, political parties should commit to making health a fundamental right in their manifestos. Moreover, a multisector approach is needed; better healthcare facilities and professionals will only make a difference when people have cleaner air to breathe and pure water to drink. Affordable healthcare at public facilities (and free for those who cannot pay) is an achievable goal should the elite set their minds to it. A secure and progressive Pakistan can only emerge when its people are healthy, educated and prosperous.



Naseer Memon

After keeping millions of people on tenterhooks for almost a week, Cyclone Biparjoy petered out without inflicting much damage. Sindh's coastal districts from Karachi to Badin narrowly survived a climatic catastrophe as the cyclone swerved in the nick of time, avoiding landfall on Sindh's coast.

Having the same trajectory and climatic features, Biparjoy brought to mind Cyclone 2A that battered Pakistan's coastal communities in 1999. The UN estimated that the cyclone killed 189 people while 150 were missing. More than 138,000 houses collapsed, and 675 boats disappeared. Some 15,000 cattle heads and sheep died. And 256,000 hectares (approximately 633,000 acres) of land was affected.

One conspicuous improvement this time was the early warning and continuous tracking of the cyclonic movement. The Met Office released regular updates detailing the cyclone's movement, intensity and potential impact on different areas till it barreled away from the Sindh coast. Effective dissemination of information through electronic and social media helped the evacuation of over 70,000 people.

Had the cyclone struck, it would have erased much of the already rickety infrastructure, including the straw huts inhabited by the poor. The coastal villages of Thatta, Sujawal and Badin lack proper living facilities.

Footage aired on TV laid bare the abject deprivation of the coastal villages and islands. Small

A close call

fishing boats or small herds of cattle are their biggest assets, and these were exposed to danger. These areas present a distressing picture. Safe drinking water, sanitation, nutrition, electricity, roads, clinics and schools are conspicuous by their absence. Surviving on meagre incomes, the dwellers of these villages live a primitive life.

A poverty survey of Badin district revealed that the homes of 48 per cent of the respondents had wooden roofs; 46pc of the people were without electricity, 60pc had no sanitation facility, and 92pc were using farm crops and animal dung as cooking fuel.

No wonder 75pc of households suffer from multipronged poverty in these three coastal districts, according to the UNDP's Multidimensional Poverty Index. This socioeconomic profile makes coastal communities extremely vulnerable to any climate shock. Over the past two centuries, some two million people worldwide have died due to the effects of tropical storms. This region is among the areas vulnerable to tropical cyclones. The coastlines of Pakistan, India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Oman, Sri Lanka and the Philippines have experienced cyclones of varying intensities. The frequency of cyclones in the Arabian Sea has increased in recent decades.

According to a study published in the American Meteorological Society journal, 41 cyclonic storms formed in the Arabian Sea during 1979-2008, of which 23 made landfall, with tropical depression or stronger intensities. The average lifetime of these storms was 3.4 days on a scale of one to nine. During the period 1979-2008, the average number of cyclonic storm days per year over the Arabian Sea was 4.7. Data reveals that the average cyclone period increased from 2.3 in 1979-91 to 6.4 in 1992-2008. This indicates

the rising incidence of cyclones in the Arabian Sea. Nevertheless, the world has learnt to mitigate risk to life and property. Bangladesh is an inspiring example of how improved early warning systems and appropriate infrastructure can reduce the impact of cyclones.

The country lost 718,000 of its inhabitants to cyclones in the past 50 years. However, these figures have now been drastically reduced. The Category 3 Cyclone Bhola wreaked havoc in 1970, claiming 500,000 lives.

A cyclone of similar intensity, Amphan, caused only 26 deaths in 2020. In 1970, the country had only 42 cyclone shelters; today, it has 12,000 functional cyclone shelters serving 5m people. Bangladesh has remarkably improved its early warning and evacuation systems. A functional and effective governance system is better able to respond to disasters.

A contrasting example is that of Myanmar, where Cyclone Nargis caused 140,000 deaths and affected some 2.5m people in 2008. Although Nargis had been forecast a week before it struck, due to the government's slackness, the warning was not conveyed to the vulnerable communities in time.

This time, Pakistan performed better on early warning and rapid evacuation. However, more structural measures are needed to avoid damage if a cyclone strikes our coast. Increased socioeconomic resilience of coastal communities, cyclone-resilient housing, a sturdy network of roads and dykes, a dense shield of mangroves, improved cyclone shelters and better organised district disaster management authorities can provide relief if a sea-triggered disaster strikes. Preparedness is the key to avoiding death and destruction. - Courtesy Dawn

Education & EQ



Nazir A. Jogezi

Emotional intelligence, or emotional quotient, is as significant as intelligence quotient. EQ, based on social intelligence, is the capacity to comprehend, utilise and regulate one's emotions in constructive ways to reduce stress, communicate effectively, empathise with others, overcome problems, and diffuse disputes. Research also tells us about the "curse of emotion", whereby individuals with a high EQ might arouse negative feelings. However, rational individuals with higher EQ fare better than those who are emotionally attached to an opinion or ideology.

Contemporary learning theories stress EQ-responsive curricula, instruction, assessment and learning environments to promote holistic development, including self-awareness, among the students. Self-awareness depends on the level of mental autonomy, objective self-analysis, and decision-making abilities, with teachers and parents as support. However, schools and homes tend to promote the memorisation of specific knowledge, without considering the students' interests or potential. What can only be called 'instructional policing' demands obedience from the students and often results in physical or emotional abuse, if the young learners take no interest or resist. Meanwhile, parents want to fulfil their own dreams through their children's education.

With such a narrow understanding of learning at home and in schools, students feel fear and anxiety, and are prone to negative emotions — in contrast to how it should be. Research tells us that a learner's multiple intelligences, while possessing their own strengths and weaknesses, seldom function independently of one another. Musical-rhythmic, visual-spatial, verbal-linguistic, logical-mathematical, bodily-kinaesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalistic intelligences are examples. A creative, imaginative youngster, though possessing poor memorisation powers, may do very well in some areas but may not get good grades in an exam. Notwithstanding their skills, such children are deemed failures.

Standardised tests also largely function as an evaluation model, measuring students with varying abilities, against fixed knowledge standards. There is nothing holistic about the teaching approach that supports such tests. In fact, assessments must go beyond merely quantifying what has been learnt; it must also highlight areas for development for both students and teachers. Regrettably, teachers rely on syllabus completion and memorised material to set exam questions. As a student, I recall having to rote learn many 'answers'. So I had no idea what I was reciting in front of my teachers or why one student was praised while the other was punished. We must prioritise learning keeping our youngsters' EQ in mind. This could be done through an enabling atmosphere instead of being made to face pressure to deliver 'A' or 'A-plus' grades. Schools must be made aware of their students' talents and adapt their teaching methods accordingly, rather than subjecting them to homogenous teaching methodologies and rote learning-based assessments, which can never handle diverse intelligences and

modes of learning. Intelligence denotes acting purposefully, thinking rationally and applying information rather than merely storing it. It is more about how to learn than what to learn. Our curricula, textbooks, teachers, in fact the overall learning system, must consider diversity in terms of multiple intelligences as each child is different. The fear of failure must be reduced by sensitively addressing children's learning requirements.

More important is the skill and co-urage to ask questions. Learning relies on asking logical questions as opposed to just searching for accurate answers. The repression of inquiry in the name of obedience stifles the courage and curiosity of children and causes them emotional harm. The curricula, teachers and parents expect obedience, which essentially means executing an action on the orders of an authority to maintain a show of respect. Teachers and parents are the people closest to children, but they are also people from whom children hide a lot of things. Respect is a two-way street — between teachers and students, and between parents and children. Updated scientific research tells us that the students' reflective learning experiences indicate an increase in self-inspection, emotional awareness, emotional regulation and understanding of others. Moving from homogeneous expectations to multiple intelligences is the most effective approach. We can achieve this by allowing adequate space for new modes of learning that stimulate our children's intellectual capital rather than memory, therefore preparing pupils for life than just for exams. We need to raise our children with greater EQ, so that they remain productive for themselves and society. - Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque witnessing contract signing for TDM to IP and Copper wire to Optical Fiber Cable Migration of National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) Exchanges Phase 2.

IT Ministry showcases remarkable performance in past five years: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Syed Amin-ul-Haque on Tuesday said that the Ministry of IT has showcased remarkable performance in the past five years, with the initiation of several projects and the continuous progress of the department, which has brought significant benefits to the nation. During this period, various institutions under the ministry successfully implemented ICT projects of vital importance to public welfare and the country's development, providing digital services to more than 50 million individuals nationwide he said while addressing a ceremony at the National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC).

The minister also spoke about the migration of NTC's exchanges to IP (Internet Protocol) from TDM (Time Division Multiplexing) and copper wires to optical fiber cables.

The contract signing ceremony for this transition took place and was attended by NTC's Director Procurement Kashif Nawaz, and Redone's Syed Ahsan Abbas, along with NTC's Managing Director, Muraaj Gul.

Syed Aminul Haque said that the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication is now embarking on another revolutionary project under the NTC.

According to the project, the exchanges of NTC will be converted to IP (Internet Protocol) and optical fiber cables from TDM (Time Division Multiplexing) and copper wires in 26 major cities across Pakistan, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu, and Shikarpur, as well as other cities in Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister further added that this migration will make NTC networks more active, secure, and faster than before. It will significantly reduce complaints and technical issues while also minimizing operational expenses.

Government institutions and departments, he said, will be provided with the best services and bandwidth in information and communication technology, along with data services.

Syed Aminul Haque mentioned that the project will cost more than Rs. 2 billion and is expected to be completed within a year. NTC will bear the entire

cost of the project, without any financial burden on the national exchequer.

He highlighted a previous project where 147 exchanges across the country were converted to IP and optical fiber cables from TDM (Time Division Multiplexing) and copper wires, with a cost of Rs 1.65 billion from May 2018 to June 2020. The project has been successfully completed, and the related exchanges are functioning efficiently.

He expressed his satisfaction with the excellent performance of NTC over the past five years, which has resulted in continuous benefits.

He emphasized that while upgrading its infrastructure to meet modern demands, NTC is also working for the welfare and well-being of its employees.

The minister mentioned a few noteworthy projects, such as the establishment of Disaster Recovery Centers in Lahore and Islamabad with a cost of Rs. 600 million from June 2019 to September 2021, as well as the expansion of data centers in Islamabad and Lahore to meet growing demands with a cost of Rs. 647 million from March 2021 to June 2023.

Collector Customs says: Technical glitches in EFS to be removed

LAHORE (APP): Collector Customs Lahore Saira Agha on Tuesday assured All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) of removing the glitches in Export Finance Scheme (EFS) at the earliest to make it user friendly to enhance trading activities and improve the inflows of foreign exchange in the country.

She was chairing a workshop jointly orga-

nized by the APTMA and Collectorate of Customs here at APTMA North Zone office. Collector Customs Sambarial Nayar Shafiq and Additional Collector Farah Farooq also accompanied her on the occasion. Chairman APTMA North Zone Hamid Zaman, Senior Vice Chairman Kamran Arshad and Secretary General Raza Baqir welcomed the team.

OGRA takes swift action against violations in LPG industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a proactive move to ensure compliance with safety standards and regulations in the Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) industry, the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) Enforcement Department, under the instructions of Chairman Masroor Khan, conducted inspections on a number of LPG plants in collaboration with the local authority.

During the inspections, a concerning discovery was made at one particular LPG plant, which was found to be in violation of OGRA guidelines and compromising

safety measures, said a news release on Tuesday. The inspection revealed that the LPG plant, whose licensee is responsible for adhering to OGRA's stringent guidelines, was engaged in the filling of gas in substandard cylinders, blatantly disregarding safety protocols that are in place to protect the public and ensure the safe handling of LPG.

Furthermore, it was discovered that cylinders belonging to other reputable companies, including PSO, were being illegally filled at this plant, posing a serious risk to consumers.

Launching of DCTS will boost trade between UK, Pakistan, Syed Naveed

ISLAMABAD (Online): In an effort to strengthen economic ties with Pakistan, the United Kingdom has unveiled a new initiative called the Developing Countries Trading Scheme (DCTS), said, Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar.

Qamar praised the DCTS, which aims to provide Pakistan and 64 other countries with improved trade opportunities through tariff reductions and simplified forms of trade.

While announcing the launch of the DCTS, Syed

Naveed Qamar said, "Pakistan will enjoy one of the most generous sets of trading preferences offered by any nation in the world."

The scheme officially replaced the UK's Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP) on June 19, 2023.

The current bilateral trade between Pakistan and the UK stands at a substantial \$4.4 billion, and with the implementation of the DCTS, both nations anticipate a significant boost in trade volume and economic cooperation, highlighted by

Minister Qamar.

It is projected that Pakistan will save approximately \$120 million in export tariffs under the DCTS, which will facilitate greater competitiveness for Pakistani exporters in the UK market.

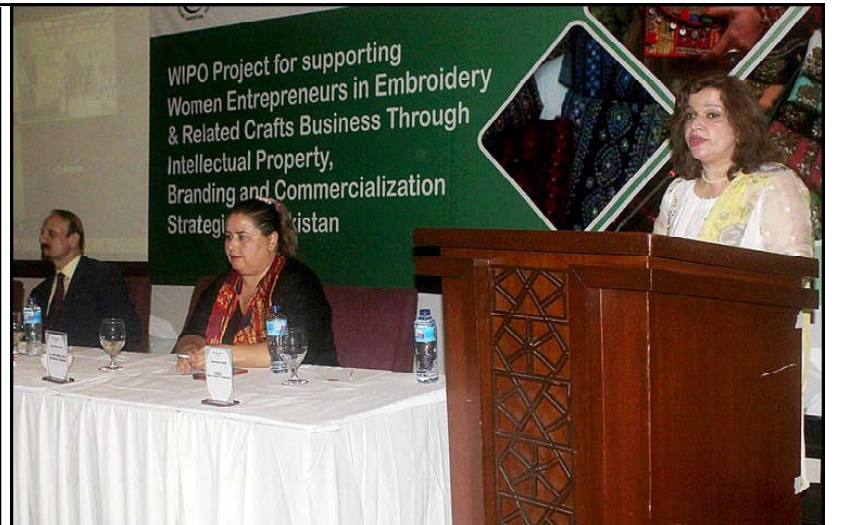
This development is seen as a positive step towards strengthening the economic partnership between the two countries.

Syed Naveed Qamar said, under the DCTS, an impressive 94% of goods exported from Pakistan will

be eligible for duty-free access to the UK.

This measure is expected to encourage the expansion of various sectors within the Pakistani economy, including textiles, agriculture, and manufacturing, Minister Qamar's remarked.

Furthermore, Minister Qamar acknowledged that Pakistan's "Enhanced Preferences" status has been retained, providing the country with added advantages in terms of trade incentives and market access.



MULTAN: DG IPO Pakistan, Shazia Adnan addressing during a ceremony on Supporting Women Entrepreneurs in Embroidery and Related Crafts Business through IP, Branding, and Commercialization Strategies organized by the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan.

Swedish Embassy launches report titled "Rebuild for a resilient Pakistan"

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan in partnership with Business Sweden - the Swedish Trade & Investment Council hosted a report launch event: "Rebuild for a resilient Pakistan".

The report discusses how Team Sweden can provide support in four main categories: capacity building; energy transition; community infrastructure; and housing, and lastly, areas around hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction

for a more proactive Pakistan.

Henrik Persson, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, welcomed the guests and said "Sweden is committed to support the people and government of Pakistan as they continue to recover from the widespread devastation caused by the country's worst floods in recent history. Rebuilding basic infrastructure is of high priority where Sweden has the opportunity to contribute with significant sustainable solutions in a number of vital areas.

The report paints a picture of a private sector that is eager to help and that sees opportunities coming out of a difficult situation, with a shared vision of cooperating to create the right conditions for growth and prosperity in Pakistan for the future." Speaking at the occasion, Emil Akander, Vice President South and Southeast Asia Business Sweden said "Sweden is a powerhouse of innovation.

21st June: 70th birth anniversary of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto

Benazir Bhutto was the first woman elected to lead a Muslim state and was also Pakistan's first, and so far only, female prime minister

Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's 70th birthday is being celebrated today. Benazir Bhutto was born on June 21, 1953, at Karachi's Pinto Hospital, Pakistan. She was the eldest child of former Premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Begum Nusrat Bhutto. Benazir served as the 11th Prime Minister of Pakistan in two non-consecutive terms from 1988 until 1990 and 1993 until 1996. She was the first woman Prime Minister of the Muslim world.

She saw her country unravel when her father's life was taken by the cruel dictator. Then she witnessed her mother collect the remnants of a hurting nation, setting aside her tragedy for the greater good of the country.

Along with her mother, the young and resilient first daughter became a symbol

of resistance to the military dictatorship of General Zia-ul-Haq. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto understood the hardship of a righteous life early on, as she was frequently put under house arrest with her mother and younger siblings.

Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto understood the pain his family would have to suffer in the wake of his extrajudicial hanging. In his last letter to his daughter, Quaid-e-Awam writes, "How does a condemned prisoner write a letter of birthday greetings to a beautiful and brilliant daughter fighting for the life of her father, being in bondage herself, knowing that her Mother is suffering the same suffering as herself? It is more than a matter of communication. How would the message of affection and sympathy pass from one prison bar to the other, from one chain to the other?"

Her father, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's love for Mohtarma Benazir was overwhelming, comparable only to his love for his country and its people. He was well aware of the dark era that would ensue once he wasn't there anymore. He was confident that she had the talent, courage, and vision to continue the mission

opportunities to all. She believed that Pakistan could play an essential role in bringing the world on one platform and bring about global peace. It was during her governments, in 1988 and 1993 that for the first time in the history of Pakistan, the press and media were given due rights by the freedom of speech, and political opponents received due coverage. Political prisoners were released, and student unions were restored to ensure the full effect of democracy during the Prime Ministership of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Under her leadership, PPP strongly espoused women's rights and had pledged to continue her struggle. Shaheed Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto empowered women and improved the literacy rate. She worked tirelessly to eradicate poverty, unemployment, diseases and of course, remove the black stigma of terrorism from Pakistan's name. She was the first Prime Minister in the history of Pakistan to introduce Lady Health Workers (LHWs), women-only police stations, First Women's Bank, and appoint lady judges to the High Court.



which he had been prevented from completing. As he paid the price for standing firm on his moral principles and democratic beliefs, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto gave the responsibility in his death cell letter to his "dearest daughter," and she was thrust into a leadership role, which she undoubtedly lived up to.

Despite these heart wrenching difficult conditions, Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto rose to the occasion with grace, dignity, and strength, undertaking landmark steps for the peace and progress of the country.

Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto continued the legacy of her father as she endeavored wholeheartedly to make Pakistan a land of her father's dreams. A Pakistan, for which Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, her father had laid down his life. Benazir felt and saw the sorrows of her nation and struggled to ensure democracy and justice, providing equality to all, strengthen-

ing the country so that it worked on laws, and not the principle of "Might Is Right." Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto fought and won general elections to become the first woman elected democratically to lead a Muslim country. The detractors of democracy weren't happy with her election. But she was just as unique as her name. She stood firm against all opposition and continued her journey on the path to democracy.

For the generation of Pakistanis born after General Zia-ul-Haq's military coup, Benazir was the epitome of democracy and diplomacy. Her political objective was evident in her slogan of 'Im, Roshni, Sab ko Kaam,' coined for the 2007 Manifesto. She wanted to establish a democratic and a peaceful Pakistan in which people can live in harmony with equal

people and her country. The fabric of Pakistani democracy is inextricably woven with her name. A dictator like Pervez Musharraf couldn't keep her away from her people and her country for very long. He had threatened her "with dire consequences if she returned to Pakistan" in a phone call. He was responsible for providing her security as she came back to her people, yet he replied that provision of security depended on "their mutual understanding and relations." He not only failed to ensure her security but also played an active role in endangering her life, which led to her assassination.

When she returned from her exile in 2007 to a Pakistan bloodied in terrorism, the nation rejoiced and gave her a hero's welcome.

From Karachi to Kashmir, all of Pakistan welcomed the Daughter of Destiny, home to her people. Her jalsas pulled in massive crowds as the people of Pakistan prepared to overthrow another dictator, rallying together under the leadership of their beloved Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. On October 18th, 2007, people came out in droves in Karachi for the most prominent political rally the nation had ever seen, welcoming her back as a ray of hope against the dictator Musharraf.

Meanwhile Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party's Women Wing and Member of Sindh Assembly, Faryal Talpur has said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto won the hearts of the people due to her political wisdom, untiring struggle and unparalleled sacrifices, which will always be remembered in the history.

In her statement issued on the 70th birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Faryal Talpur said that a brave, humble and history-making leaders like her are born after the centuries.

She said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto tremendously loved party workers and the people of Pakistan. The way she played the role of a daughter, wife, mother and leader despite living a very hectic and difficult life, is the best example for all of us.

In fact, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto played the role of a teacher for us in every respect, and taught us to fight for the rights of the people, and not to hesitate any kind of sacrifice for their sake.

Faryal Talpur said that as the living nations never forget their leaders, therefore the Pakistani people also remember her every day. She congratulated the entire nation, including the people around the world, on the 70th birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. She further said that it is a matter of satisfaction for the entire nation that today Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari is actively and passionately working for the prosperity of the people and the glory of Pakistan by holding the flag of her mission to serve the people of Pakistan.

Whenever she spoke about her struggles against the oppression of the military regime, there were never tears in

at this very place. Once again, Pakistan lost a dynamic leader, who was later given the title of Shaheed-e-Jamhooriyat, as her life was cruelly taken. The days after her assassination were long and dark, as the nation became uncertain about its future. As fear of a bleak and terrifying tomorrow set in, Pakistanis wept.

From Karachi to Peshawar, shops and businesses closed early. Protestors set tires on fire on the roads, expressing their anger and frustration with General Musharraf's incompetence at protecting Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Violence also broke out in Lahore, Multan, and Rawalpindi where grieving supporters and angry protestors took to the streets. There were widespread reports of self-immolation and mass hysteria ensued. The nation was inconsolable.

This was when Asif Ali Zardari said "Pakistan Khappay" to everyone who was disillusioned and disheartened. He held up the ideals of democracy, progressivism, and egalitarianism in Pakistan, and the country will never forget his untiring efforts for these causes.

Mohtarma's fearless journey was cut short in the form of her untimely assassination, which was a cowardly act by the extremists. PPP continues its struggle to make her dreams come true. Benazir Bhutto was a great visionary leader, who was an inspiring beacon not only for Pakistan, but also for women all over the world. We can promote her vision by conducting research on different aspects of her life particularly her political career.

She always wanted to empower women in the country. The First Women's Bank and Women's police stations are just a few projects to name she introduced in Pakistan for females.

Meanwhile Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party's Women



Bilawal reiterates to follow philosophy of Shaheed BB

Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari have reiterated to follow the philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the supremacy of the constitution and parliament.

According to a news statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House, Chairman PPP paid tribute to the first elected woman Prime Minister of the Islamic world, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, on her 70th birth anniversary and said that Dukhtar-e-Mashriq (Daughter of the East) was a ray of light throughout her life for the nation trapped in darkness, and even today her thoughts and philosophy are a beacon of light for the country in difficult situations.

He said due to the previous regime, inflation and unemployment have become uncontrollable in the country, but to control them and eradicate poverty, the people-friendly philosophy of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto must be followed, adding that in the past too, Pakistan had to face difficult situations many times, but the people always believed that no matter how tough the situation, "Benazir Aaegi, Rozgar Laaegi"

(Benazir will come, bring employment).

"I assure the nation that if the people gave the mandate to our party in the upcoming general elections, the PPP government will also create ample employment opportunities in the country, just like it was done during the governments of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto," he vowed.

Bilawal said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was, truly, a history-making personality and a movement, adding that if the plant of democracy is growing in the

country today, it is the fruit of the long and tireless struggle and sacrifices of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. He pointed out that after the martyrdom of the Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto played a key role in strengthening democratic institutions in the country and the promotion of equality in society.

The Chairman PPP said that the best way to pay homage to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is to follow her vision and philosophy and associate oneself with the struggle to

complete her incomplete mission.

He said that the mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is to establish the supremacy of the constitution and law in Pakistan, strengthen democratic institutions, eliminate poverty from the country and create a society where tolerance, equality and harmony prevail.

"The time has come for every one of us - the patriotic Pakistanis to put forward the 'Benazir Agenda' for the progress and development, prosperity, stability and upliftment of the country," he urged.



Remembering Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's Legacy

By Basir Riaz

Sixteen years after the martyrdom of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, "Zinda hai BB, zinda hai" still echoes in political rallies and every day, in the hearts of her party-workers. I often think that indeed, Shaheed BB still lives in our thoughts and memories. Every year, June 21 is marked as her birthday and cakes are cut to pay tribute to this phenomenal woman, who was the pride of Pakistan nationally and internationally. Despite a known threat to her life, she chose to return to her people for the sake of democracy and rule of law. Her sacrifice will be remembered in the history of Pakistan forever as part of Bhutto family's irrefutable contribution towards the restoration of democracy.

During her tenure as the Prime Minister, she created employment opportunities and helped numerous people who had nowhere else to turn to. She even financially supported needy people from personal charity, such as the caretaker of Pak Tea House, which was a space of freedom where political, intellectual and artistic culture flourished. Today, all those whose lives she touched remember her with deep respect. Shaheed BB is an example of a true leader who stays alive in the hearts of the people long after leaving this world. Her generosity is also evident in her ideology of reconciliation instead of revenge.

Today, this legacy of respect in politics should be a lesson for everyone about promoting a culture of tolerance in politics. There are countless instances from the life of Shaheed BB that are a testimony to her courage and

her eyes and she never wallowed in self-pity. When she would talk about her time in jail, she always remembered her party workers awaiting punishment in the Pakistani jails. She never forgot the need to fight for her people, staying true to the legacy of her father, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. She said that we have to end this autocracy and if this can be achieved by her going to jail then she would do it again and again. She raised her voice for a democratic Pakistan on multiple forums internationally and helped to establish a strong base for the Pakistan People's Party around the globe.

In 1986, she rendered everyone speechless when during a television interview she said that despite the oppressive tactics of General Zia, she would not resort to politics of revenge. The TV anchor repeated his question and asked that despite the fact that Zia had hanged her father and kept her in jail, she will not take revenge? She replied she did not believe in revenge and this was the difference between Zia and her.

On 10 April 1986, when BB landed in Lahore, she asked me to exit first and see the situation regarding police behaviour. The area was surrounded by police and along with some other party leaders, I became a part of the historic welcome procession that reached Minar-e-Pakistan for a jalsa. In the general elections of 1988, the victory of the Pakistan People's Party was a watershed moment when democracy won against terror and oppression. Shaheed BB became the first woman Prime Minister in the Muslim World, a proud moment for everyone who supported a progressive and democratic Pakistan.

Shaheed BB had clearly decided that she would not resort to any vengeful acts against the widow of General Zia or his family. She instructed her party workers as well to maintain an attitude of respect towards their rivals. She set a unique example for the future political leaders of our country, staying true to her great political stature, by forgiving her rivals. Her legacy is a lesson that verbal or physical abuse, personally maligning opponents or other modes of vengeance should be discouraged by political leaders. They should remember the conduct of Shaheed BB and refrain from stooping low to the level of common ruffians.

As I look back, I recall aspects of BB's personality that I was fortunate to witness personally. Her generous and empathetic nature is evident from her behaviour with others. She regularly celebrated my birthday until December 2007, the year she passed away, and now only her memories are left behind. In an international conference in Portugal, she was paid tribute in these words, "Amongst all the stars in the sky, you alone are the shining star." Only if Shaheed BB were alive today, the radiance of her generous personality and political brilliance would have lit our country on the world map many years ago. On this occasion of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's birthday, let's remember this great political leader and her legacy of selflessness, respect, and steadfastness on her ideology for her land where the tree of democracy is flourishing today, nourished with the blood of Bhuttos.

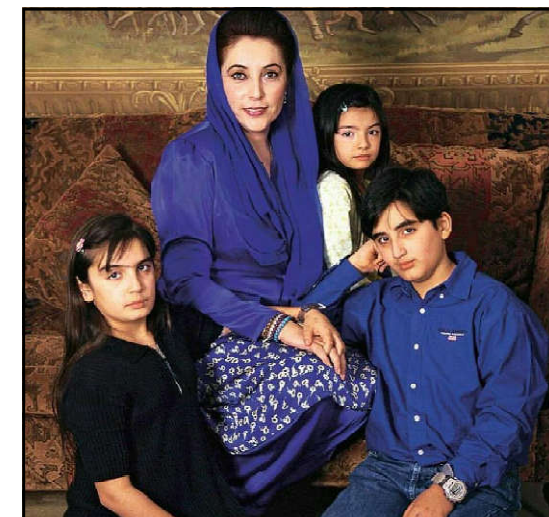


struggles for democracy. She never gave in to the pressures of the military regime and firmly stood by her ideologies, almost as an article of faith—she protected her vision with her life. On 14 January 1984, Shaheed BB reached Heathrow airport in London after five years of jail and house-arrest where she received a very warm welcome from her supporters. On this occasion, she spoke to the media and said, "Pakistan is my homeland. I will live and die there. I have come to Britain to seek medical treatment. In Zia's martial law, I stayed in confinement for five years and now I am breathing freely in a free country. After consultation with party leaders here, I will decide on the future course of action. Pakistan People's Party does not belong to any single individual but it belongs to the people of Pakistan. I will return to Pakistan as soon as my treatment ends." After the surgery of her ear, she increased the intensity of her struggle against the Zia regime in London.

Only a few days after arriving in London, I received a call from Sanam Bhutto that BB was looking for me. Shaheed BB asked me if I wanted to work with her as her spokesperson. I was humbled by this proposal and accepted. I responded that I would try my best to do justice to this position. It was her guidance that taught me a lot and gave me a fulfilling mission in life.

The international media gave a voice to her struggle for democracy on the world stage. A newspaper from Denmark introduced Shaheed BB in these words, "Who knew that a graduate of Harvard and Oxford, tall, slender and sophisticated 'Princess of the East', would become a symbol of unity for the people of Pakistan?"

Whenever she spoke about her struggles against the oppression of the military regime, there were never tears in





ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the participants of Ground-Breaking Ceremony of Bagh-e-Dastoor at D-Chowk.

Speakers calls for taking measures to legalize border trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): The speakers at a seminar titled 'Developments in Balochistan' Tuesday called for taking measures to legalize border trade in the province so that a major pie of economy would be made formal.

The seminar organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

Former Chief Minister Balochistan, Jam Kamal, Senator Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, former federal minister Zubeida Jalal, MNA Danesh Kumar, MPA Sanaullah Baloch and Sarfaraz Bugti were the panelists of the seminar, said a news release.

President IPRI Ambassador Muhammad highlighted the need to shorten

distance between the elite and the downtrodden in the province, which was ironically rich in natural resources and human dynamics, urging upon the need to sit together and resolve differences. Jam Kamal said that the stakeholders and common strata links must be restored in order to restore the people's confidence in the province.

He said that poverty level in Balochistan was more in cost as compared to other areas of the country because there was negligible infrastructure in the province.

"This leads to insurgency as deprivation is cashed by vested forces," he elucidated.

Sarfaraz Bugti said

that small things could make a bigger difference, and it was time to start a new.

He said that unparalleled development was not specific to Balochistan, but making it an excuse for violence was unacceptable.

He said that there were two paradigms, one security and other development in the province.

MNA Danesh Kumar talked about the homogeneity of the society, adding there was no discrimination with the minorities, especially Hindu population of the province.

He demanded the government to allocate sufficient funds for Balochistan to develop the province at par with other areas of the country.



HYDERABAD: Peoples Labor Bureau Senior Vice President, Lal Baksh Khulhro along with others cutting cake during celebration ceremony in connection of the 70th birthday anniversary of slain Leader Benazir Bhutto, in Hyderabad.

DGP's initiatives to foster growth, excellence in Pakistani cinema unveiled

KARACHI (INP): The Directors Guild of Pakistan (DGP) on Tuesday announced a series of groundbreaking initiatives aimed at promoting the growth and excellence of Pakistani cinema. With a steadfast commitment to empowering and supporting the creative vision of talented filmmakers, the DGP aims to shape the future of the Pakistani film industry.

The DGP under the visionary leadership of its esteemed board members and renowned directors was spearheading several key programs designed to nurture artistic talent, foster innovation, and facilitate collaboration within the filmmaking community. These initiatives seek to create a vibrant ecosystem that encourages the production of high-quality, thought-provoking films that resonate with audiences both at home and abroad.

Highlights of the DGP's new initiatives include:

1. **Filmmaker Development Program:** The DGP is launching an extensive filmmaker development program that will provide aspiring directors with access to mentorship, workshops, and resources. This program aims to cultivate a new generation of filmmakers by offering guidance on various aspects of the craft, from storytelling techniques to technical expertise.

2. **Collaboration and Networking Events:** Recognizing the power of collaboration and networking, the DGP will organize regular events and platforms for filmmakers to connect, exchange ideas, and forge partnerships. These gatherings will serve as catalysts for innovation and provide filmmakers with valuable opportunities to showcase their work and attract potential collaborators.



DADU: Umme Rubab Chandio is talking to media persons after court case hearing in famous triple Mehar murder case by Model Trial Court in Dadu.

HRCP organizes outreach meeting on rights to housing, livelihood for katchi abadis

HYDERABAD (APP): Human Rights activists have demanded department concerned to provide ownership and basic facilities as thousands of people living in katchi Abadis were deprived of basic facilities.

In this connection, Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Hyderabad Chapter organized an outreach meeting on rights to housing and livelihood for katchi abadis residents in Sikandarabad colony of Kotri area of Jamshoro district on other day.

A large number of katchi abadis residents including women participated in the meeting.

Human Rights activist Imdad Chandio addressing

the meeting said that Katchi abadis of Kotri including Sikandarabad were deprived of basic facilities including Schools, Hospital, vocational training center, Drainage, Sui gas, electricity, and drinking water.

HRCP council member Salim Jarwar said that katchi Abadis were facing numerous problems, however, they could be solved with mutual cooperation and understanding among residents. The Regional Coordinator HRCP Ghufiana Arain on the occasion said that the main objective to hold the meeting was to educate people living in katchi abadis and to collect information about the issues being faced by local residents.

Barrister Aitzaz, Latif Khosa meets CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP senior leaders Barrister Aitzaz Ahsan and Latif Khosa have met Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) in his chambers.

According to sources they have exchanged views with reference to petition against trial of civilians in military courts.

PPP leaders requested the CJP to fix the petition for early hearing. The sources said the prevailing situation in the country and other legal matters came under discussion.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque chairing a meeting during the MoU Signing Ceremony of TDM to IP and Copper Wire to Optical Fiber Cable Migration of NTC Exchanges Phase 2 at National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) Headquarters.

Huge quantity gutka seized, one arrested

KARACHI (APP): The district Keamari Police on Tuesday seized a huge quantity of hazardous gutka from an empty plot and arrested an involved accused.

According to SSP Keamari Fida Hussain Janwari, a team of Saeedabad Police Station in a raid recovered 4650 packets of hazardous gutka from an empty plot in Sector 12F, Saeedabad area.

An accused identified as Ali Muhammad was arrested from the spot while his other accomplice namely Raheel managed to escape.

Very hot, humid weather forecast for Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Tuesday predicted very hot and dry weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

The minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded in Karachi 34-36 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 38-40 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 43-45 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 43-45 degrees Centigrade.

Dadu is 46-48 degrees Centigrade, Mithi 36-38 degrees Centigrade, and in Nawabshah 42-44 degrees Centigrade.

Mainly, very hot and humid weather is likely to prevail in the province.

Mushahid says Strengthening Iran ties key to Border & Energy Security

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Defence, chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, convened a meeting today to address important issues pertaining to national security and the well-being of the citizens.

Senators Walid Iqbal, Hidayat Ullah, Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, Dr Zarqa Suhawardy Taimur, Engr Rukhsana Zuberi, Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan and Mover; ex-Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan attended the meeting.

Secretary Ministry of Defence Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman HI(M), Additional Secretary Ministry of Defence,

Major General Khurram and DG, Military Lands & Cantonments, Major General Tariq, and CEO Rawalpindi Cantonment, also participated.

The meeting commenced with Fateha offered for the souls who lost their lives in the Greece boat tragedy. The Committee extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with them during this difficult time. The meeting discussed in detail the unauthorized commercial activities in Westridge, Rawalpindi Cantt. The Director General Military Lands and Cantonments (ML&C) delivered a detailed presentation.

President approves Trained Paramedical Staff Facility Bill, 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday gave his assent to the Trained Paramedical Staff Facility Bill, 2023.

Under the Bill, the availability of trained paramedical staff to provide first aid to children in public and private schools of Islamabad had been made mandatory, a news release issued by the President House Press Wing said on Tuesday. All the private schools in Islamabad will ensure the availability of paramedical staff in their

premises to provide medical assistance to the children who need it.

The Federal Government will ensure the availability of paramedical staff in all government schools to provide medical assistance to the children.

In case of violation, a fine of up to Rs 100,000 after the first warning, and imprisonment of up to six months thereafter can be imposed.

The president approved the Bill under Article 75 of the Constitution.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque chairing a meeting during the MoU Signing Ceremony of TDM to IP and Copper Wire to Optical Fiber Cable Migration of NTC Exchanges Phase 2 at National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) Headquarters.

NICVD establishes 26th Chest Pain Unit in Kashmore

KARACHI (APP): The National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) in collaboration with the Sindh Government on Tuesday launched its 26th chest pain unit in Kashmore at Taluka Hospital aimed at helping patients experiencing chest pain with immediate and easy access and free of cost services.

PPP Leader Sardar Saleem Jan Khan Mazari, Executive Director of SICVD Professor Jawaid Akbar Sial and Chief Operating Officer of NICVD Dr. Sohail Khan formally inaugurated the Unit.

On the occasion, the Chief Operating Officer of NICVD Dr. Sohail Khan

lauded the NICVD "for introducing a new era in the field of heart healthcare," and added that the CPU would make it easier for the public to access health facilities.

Dr. Khan further stated that the concept of CPUs was a unique one and told media persons that the NICVD had treated more than 1 million patients at these units to date. He said that in Karachi and the other cities of the province, we are using containers to provide emergency treatment to patients and added that a network of CPUs and satellite centres was reflective of the spirit and efforts of the government.

Regional Head Sukkur of Federal Ombudsman listened complaints against SPECO, SSGC in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): On the special directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Regional Head Federal Ombudsman at Sukkur Syed Mehmood Ali Shah heard complaints against Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SPECO) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) in Open Court held at the Provincial Ombudsman's Office, Larkana, on Tuesday.

Revenue Officer SEPCO Larkana, R.O SEPCO Kambar Shahdadkot, Executive Engineer (Rural) SEPCO and

other related officers, while on behalf of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Deputy Chief Manager Larkana, other officers of SSGC Larkana and petitioners also appeared and presented their issues against SEPCO and SSGC including complaints of over-reading and deduction.

Regional Head Syed Mehmood Ali Shah reviewed the complaints received and 35 complaints were presented against SEPCO of which 30 complaints were decided on the spot.

President stresses economic diplomacy to boost trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday underscored the need to focus on economic and trade diplomacy to enhance the country's exports.

He added that increasing exports and foreign investment could help Pakistan overcome its economic challenges.

The President expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Den-

mark and High-Commissioner-designate to Rwanda, who separately called on him, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Talking to Ambassador-designate to Denmark, Shoaib Sarwar, the President urged him to especially focus on economic diplomacy initiatives to boost the country's exports.

He highlighted that the dairy and agriculture sector were important areas where Danish companies could be

invited to invest in Pakistan.

He said that Information Technology was also another important area for enhanced cooperation where Pakistan's tech companies could offer services and solutions to Danish companies.

He also asked the newly-appointed envoy to work towards inviting more wind power companies from Denmark to invest in Pakistan's energy sector, besides further expanding collaborations in the renew-

able energy sector. He expressed the hope that recent exchanges at the ministerial level would further strengthen the mutually beneficial ties between the two countries.

Talking to Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Rwanda, Naem Ullah Khan, the President highlighted that Pakistan attached great importance to its bilateral ties with Rwanda and both countries enjoyed cordial relations.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed regarding the upgradation and rehabilitation project of Sikander e Azam Road.

AVLC arrests 3 including one injured after encounter

KARACHI (APP): Three robbers including one in injured condition were arrested by the Anti Vehicle Lifting Cell (AVLC) of Karachi Police on Tuesday after an encounter in Hasrat Mohani Colony.

According to police, an encounter took place between robbers and AVLC after which three including one was arrested in injured condition and a pistol and a motorcycle was recovered from their possession. The arrested were identified as Shahnawaz alias Shani (injured), Sarwar alias Dana and Ramzan alias Talu. The encounter took place near Asifabad Degree College, Hasrat Mohani Colony within the limits of Pak Colony police station. The injured was shifted to Civil Hospital for treatment while further investigations were underway.

World Hydrography Day: Naval Chief seeks maritime stakeholders' role to stimulate national economy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Tuesday urged all maritime stakeholders to join Pakistan Navy in its efforts of raising awareness and advancing hydrographic activities viz-a-viz safety of navigation and stimulating national economy through enhanced maritime trade and exploration.

The Naval Chief, in his message on World Hydrography Day (WHD), said as per the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Pakistan like other coastal

states was responsible for hydrographic surveys and production of nautical charts/maps of its waters to provide accurate nautical information to the mariners.

He said in order to discharge national/international hydrographic obligations with appropriately vested authority, the Pakistan Navy approached the government for re-designating Pakistan Navy Hydrographic Department (PNHD) as National Hydrographic Office (NHO) and Hydrographer Pakistan Navy (HPN) as Hydrographer of Pakistan (HOP).

PTA urges safe, responsible use of social media

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has released guidelines highlighting the significance of safe and responsible use of social media due to its increasing popularity and the potential risks it poses to public convenience.

In an article titled "Principles, Responsibilities, and Ethics of Social Media," Director Muhammad Farooq emphasizes the profound impact of social media on society, both positive and negative. While these platforms offer numerous benefits such as digital literacy, access to local content, business opportunities, and instant information, they also have the capacity to undermine our social and moral

values. One of the primary concerns highlighted in the article is the challenge of addressing false, defamatory, misleading, inappropriate, and hate-inducing content, as it threatens cultural and ethical values.

Moreover, the online platforms themselves are vulnerable to various risks. Users who are unaware of local laws and community guidelines often fall victim to financial fraud, encounter online predators, or engage in illegal activities that can lead to legal consequences. To ensure public convenience and safety, the article stresses the importance of following the necessary guidelines for the responsible use of social media.

MD SSWMB for increasing salaries of sanitary staff

KARACHI (APP): The Managing Director (MD) Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah on Tuesday directed to increase in the salaries of sanitary workers, and helpers according to the minimum wages fixed by the government.

The MD SSWMB while chairing a meeting with officials of private companies and officers of South, East, Malir, Kemari, Korangi, Central and West districts of Karachi instructed that basic problems of sanitary workers should be solved on a priority basis.

He said that the wages of sanitary workers, helpers and others should be increased at par with minimum wages fixed by the government at Rs 962 per day as it was their basic right.

He directed the concerned officers, Chinese

companies and contractors to devise a strategy in this regard, implement it at the earliest and submit a report till July 03, 2023. In case of failure in devising the mechanism, fines would be imposed on private companies, he warned.

To ensure quality work, hardworking staff should be hired on good salaries and a database of employees also be maintained, he said adding that salaries should be paid only after confirmation of attendance of the employees.

"Until the problems of sanitary workers' attendance and timely payment of salaries are not resolved, there would not be a significant improvement in cleanliness," he asserted and stressed immediate corrective measures saying that timely payment of salaries would restore confidence of sanitary workers and improve their performance.



KARACHI: Sindh Solid Waste Management Board (SSWMB) Managing Director, Syed Imtiaz Ali Shah presiding over the high level meeting, held at his office in Karachi.