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Lt. Gen. among others sacked from service after May 9 probe: ISPR DG

Army spokesperson says strict disciplinary action has been taken against 15 officers, including three major generals and seven brigadiers; Relatives of retired generals are also facing accountability

RAWALPINDI (APP): Director General of Inter Services Public Relations (DG ISPR) Major General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry on Monday said there would be no reprieve or leniency for the facilitators and perpetrators of the May 9 mayhem on account of fake human rights narrative.

A thorough probe had clearly indicated that May 9 riots and arson were a pre-planned and orchestrated conspiracy against the armed forces, he said, adding there was no substance in the concocted narrative of any human rights abuses. Addressing a news

briefing at the ISPR Directorate, Major General Ahmed Sharif informed the media about the actions and investigations with regard to the violent incidents against military installations on the Dark Day of May 9.

He said the May 9 was the darkest chapter in the 76-year history of Pakistan, and in its aftermath, the process of self-accountability within the Army was carried out without any discrimination.

"Two comprehensive institutional inquiries were conducted into the incidents of violence at various garrisons on May 9. The

inquiries were presided over by officers of the rank of Major General," he added. He said a disciplinary action had been initiated against the officials concerned who failed to maintain the security and sanctity of the garrisons and the Jinnah House.

"There is no distinction of rank or social status in the accountability process of the Army. The bigger the post, the bigger the responsibility." The DG ISPR said the investigations clearly established the point that the May 9 tragedy was being planned for several months.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori briefs media about the biggest ever ration drive of 20000 ration bags under Taqatwar Pakistan programme at Governor House.

Role of journalist fraternity in strengthening democracy commendable: Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has commended the important role played by the journalist community in strengthening the democracy in the country.

These views were expressed by him while addressing the journalist fraternity during a ceremony held at Governor House in Karachi on Monday.

Terming the journalists as eyes and ears of any

society, Kamran Khan Tessori said that they can play an important role to guide the government towards the right direction and unifying the people.

He said IT courses are being arranged in the Governor's House for which tests will be taken after Eid. The Governor Sindh said that resolving the problems of the people was the top most priority of the government.

We have no stick for implementation of court's orders: CJP

Several people have stick. But what moral justification they have

ISLAMABAD (Online): The 7-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) hearing petitions against trial of civilians in military court once again stands dissolved due to objection raised by federal government against Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, member of bench.

The 7-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial took up the case for hearing Monday. At the inception of hearing Attorney General (AG) on behalf of federal government requested Justice Mansoor Ali Shah to

recuse himself from bench.

AG came on rostrum and informed about federal government directives regarding bench. AG said one petitioner is relative of Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, therefore, his conduct can be affected. The CJP remarked the benches can not be constituted on your desire or choice. You are raising objection on the learned judge of this court on what basis.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked "I had said from the very first day tell us if some one has any objection.

Mariyum says: Title of 'CPEC Hero' for Ahsan, a slap on face of malicious characters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Monday felicitated Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal who was given a title of the Hero of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) by the Chinese government the other day.

The minister, in a tweet, said ironically, a person whose honesty, dedication, and hard work were acknowledged by a country as esteemed as China, was unjustly thrown into jail during the previous regime's campaign of political victimization. She said the title of CPEC hero for Ahsan Iqbal also reflected the effective foreign policy of Pakistan which faced isolation during the four years rule of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Acting President approves Finance Bill 2023 and 2024

ISLAMABAD (Online): After the assent of the Acting President, the Finance Bill has become a formal law.

Acting President Sadiq Sanjrani has approved Finance Bill 2023 and 2024.

It is pertinent to mention that Finance Bill was approved by National Assembly (NA) yesterday.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Reform, Ahsan Iqbal in a Group Photograph during his visit to Karachi Shipyard.

Govt placed promotion of blue economy in its growth agenda

Call for concerted efforts to achieve sustainable economic growth

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, on Monday said that the blue economy possesses enormous potential for sustainable financial stability and development of Pakistan and the incumbent government has placed it in its futuristic agenda of national growth.

The minister talking to media persons during the visit of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) here said that more than one thousand kilometres long coastal line and over 2 million

kilometres of vast exclusive economic zone offer unfathomable opportunities to the country.

Pakistan being an agricultural country had relied on the green economy at the time while the volume of its blue economy was greater than the green one, he observed and noted that integration of both economies could boost the pace of the journey of development to a greater extent.

The federal minister said that PML-N led government has expedited important projects under China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that were integrated

with the global Belt and Road initiative and open new vistas of growth and prosperity of the country.

He said that under the sustainable development approach, it was our responsibility to secure and efficiently monitor the country's coastal line and maritime frontiers.

The minister while lauding the services of PMSA for the protection of the borders of Pakistan said that the agency was equipped with state-of-the-art equipment and fleet and was vigilantly securing the maritime frontiers of Pakistan.

Additionally, PMSA

has also earned a good name for the country across the globe due to its rescue and relief operations in the deep sea, he added.

Ahsan Iqbal recalled that in 2014 operational capacity of PMSA was limited to a few old boats and it lacked an effective monitoring system. Then PML-N government vowed to modernise the agency and approved projects for the induction of 6 modern ships and boats in PMSA which had significantly improved the operational capacities of the agency, the minister said.

He hoped that PMSA would keep securing the maritime frontiers of the country and preventing the dumping of hazardous materials and elimination of illegal trade within their jurisdiction.

He further said that PMSS Kolachi was developed at the Karachi shipyard and inducted into a fleet of PMSA. The Karachi shipyard had the capability to manufacture even bigger ships that would not only further enhance the country's maritime forces but Pakistan could also earn precious foreign exchange.

PM Shahbaz directs immediate rainwater draining measures

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the provincial and district authorities to immediately take rainwater drainage measures in Lahore.

Taking notice of the problems faced by the dwellers of Lahore, the prime minister also directed the relevant authorities to remain alert in the situation arising out of the current rainy spell, the PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

No leniency should be shown in addressing the public issues and griev-

ances, it was further added. The authorities were tasked to continuously monitor the situation with prompt measures in place.

The prime minister further stressed that considering the situation, alternate routes should be timely identified for smooth vehicular traffic.

Similarly, in other parts of the country, the prime minister also directed for adoption of safety measures during the rainy spells and called upon the provincial and district administrations to save the people from any trouble with their joint collaboration.

Mayor assures citizens of municipal grievances

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab Monday said citizens' complaints regarding cleaning and other municipal problems would be resolved on priority.

He was presiding over a meeting in his office for a detailed review of the problems faced by the citizens in the limits of, Tehsil Municipal Committee (TMC) Orangi, Manghopir and Mominabad and issued instructions for their immediate solution by the relevant bodies. He said that Karachi Water and Sewerage Board should solve the problem of leakage from

water supply and drainage lines in Manghopir.

Solid Waste Management Board should keep in full contact with the TMCs regarding sanitation in their area. All the concerned officers should solve the problems of the citizens through mutual contacts, he observed.

Deputy Commissioner West Ali Zulfikar Memon, Managing Director Sindh Solid Waste Management Board Syed Iftiaz Shah, CEO Water Board Syed Salahuddin Ahmed, General Manager Sindh Solid Waste Management Board Dil Nawaz Shah, Chairman TMC Orangi Jameel Zia.

Stampede breaks out during distribution of BISP funds

KARACHI (INP): Stampede broke out during the distribution of funds of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) among deserving women in Karachi. The stampede broke out outside the BISP office near KPT Ground in Karachi's Kemari area. As a result, 20 women lost fell unconscious.

Getting the information, the rescue teams reached the spot and moved the women to the hospital. Last Monday, Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) announced releasing the fourth quarterly tranche

of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance.

The fourth quarterly tranche would be Rs 9,000 per beneficiary, after 25 increase, which was announced by the federal government early this year. In addition to Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif stipend's instalment of January to March is also being disbursed to 6.7 million school-going students, having at least 70 per cent attendance at schools, who are registered under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif, the press release added.



KARACHI: Members of Drugs Action Committee are holding protest demonstration against selling of drugs in Malir area, on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, at Karachi press club.

PTI chairman, his wife regret to appear in NAB office

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman and his wife Bushra Bibi have regretted to appear in NAB Rawalpindi office.

PTI chairman has filed written reply while regretting to appear in NAB Rawalpindi office.

PTI chairman took the plea "I have challenged jurisdiction of NAB in Toshakhana inquiry case.

I am appearing in Lahore High Court (LHC) in several cases today. Due to it I cannot appear in NAB office in person.

Rice, cotton crops badly hit by water scarcity: Jam Khan Shoro

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Irrigation Minister Jam Khan Shoro has deplored that the rice and cotton crops were being badly hit by water scarcity.

Addressing a press conference after assuming the charge of Chairman Board of Directors of Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), he said that IRSA was releasing 12,000 cusecs of water in Taunsa Panjnad and 8,000 cusecs in Chashma Jhelum link canals which were supposed to be given water only during the

flood situation. He argued that under the 1991 Water Accord Sindh was supposed to supply 180,000 cusecs of water in the Indus river during the current season.

"But at present, just 160,000 cusecs of water is being released at Taunsa which is 300 kilometers away from Guddu barrage in Sindh. He recalled that a committee formed by the National Assembly Standing Committee on Water visited the barrages in Sindh and also acknowledged that Sindh should be given its due share of water.

Speakers demand implementation of 2014 landmark verdict of Supreme Court

KARACHI: Human rights, and minority rights activists at a consultation here on Monday expressed serious concern about the non-implementation of the Supreme Court of Pakistan's 2014 judgment on minority rights and demanded the government to implement this landmark verdict in its true spirit.

The consultation "Ensuring Compliance with Minority Rights in Sindh through the Lens of Honorable Supreme Court of Pakistan Judgment (SMC no 1 of 2014)" was organized by the Sindh Human Rights Commission (SHRC) in collaboration with National Lobbying Delegation for Minority Rights and Legal Aid Society.

Speaking on the occa-



He said the provincial government is seriously making policies and laws for the protection of minority rights to foster an inclusive society in the province.

SHRC Chairperson Iqbal Detho shared the pivotal role of the Commission in addressing the minority's issues in the province.



KARACHI: Woman line up at Benazir Income Support Center after Stampede broke out during the distribution of funds of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) among deserving women as several women were injured in the stampede at Benazir Income Support Center in Provincial Capital.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali addressing 1st Convocation of University of Technology Nowshera at chief guest

Kundi for ensuring all possible facilities at BISP payment centers

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday directed for ensuring the provision of all possible facilities to the beneficiaries at payment centers of Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

He issued these directions during his visit to different payment centers of BISP in Dera Ismail Khan. On this occasion, the state minister was accompanied by Pakistan People's Party (PPP) District President Malik Farhan Afzal Dhap,

Tehsil General Secretary Malik Khizer Hayat, Tehsil Information Secretary Haji Sooba Khan and others.

He listened to the issues and difficulties being faced by the beneficiary women at these payment centers and directed the on-duty staff to take steps for immediate resolution of the problems being faced by the deserving people.

He warned that no negligence would be tolerated in ensuring smooth payments to the beneficiary women.

The state minister

said that on the special instructions of PPP Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, this time the aid amount has been increased from Rs 8,500 to Rs 9,000.

Similarly, he said, educational scholarships worth Rs 17 billion were being given under the Waseela-e-Taleem programme.

The stipend amount for the children of deserving women has also been increased. The female student would be given Rs 2,500 and the male student would be provided Rs 2,000 stipend amount.

CM Punjab puts line departments on alert

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has directed all line departments including the provincial administration, Punjab Disaster Management Authority, Rescue 1122, and Water and Sanitation Agency to maintain a state of high alertness, operating round-the-clock, in response to heavy rainfall in Lahore and other cities. The chief minister directed the officers concerned to remain present in the field, ensuring prompt drainage of stagnant water. He emphasised the need for expeditious water drainage, without any compromise, utilising available machinery to implement the

planned drainage strategy within the designated timeframe. He sternly emphasised that no negligence would be tolerated in carrying out the vital task of water drainage.

Addressing the issue of traffic management, the CM emphasized the need for special arrangements to facilitate the smooth flow of vehicles, with active efforts required to resolve public grievances.

He urged administrative officers and WASA staff to oversee and complete the water drainage operations, while emphasizing the initiation of immediate emergency measures in the event of any unfortunate incident.

GB unveils over Rs116 bln budget for fiscal year 2023-24

GILGIT (APP): The Gilgit Baltistan government on Monday announced an Rs116 billion 15 crore budget for the next fiscal year 2023-24 in the Assembly held here on Monday.

Gilgit Baltistan Finance Minister Javed Ali Manwa presented the budget in the House.

In the budget of the new financial year, 74 billion rupees have been allocated for non-developmental expenditure, while 28 billion 45 crore rupees have been allocated for developmental expenditure. 13 billion 70 crore rupees have been proposed for subsidy on

wheat. The finance minister announced a 35 per cent increase in the salaries of government employees up to 16 and 30 per cent in the salaries of employees from grades 17 to 22.

He further said that more than one billion 37 crore rupees have been allocated for the improvement of the health sector.

He said that more than 1 billion 57 crore rupees have been allocated for education, 45 crore rupees for agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries, and 4 billion 17 crore rupees have been proposed for the power sector.

To control drug abuse Governor underlines need to evolve comprehensive mechanism in universities

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting of Consortium on Drug and Narcotics Control today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, suggestions and recommendations regarding the prevention of drug abuse in universities were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman underlined the need to evolve a comprehensive mechanism in universities to control drug abuse at the campuses of the universities. He said that the 2021

policy of the Higher Education Commission is an effective and comprehensive policy in this regard. Governor Punjab urged all the vice chancellors to ensure the implementation of this policy.

He said that there is a need to train the faculty in this regard as well. Governor Punjab emphasized that regular awareness campaigns should be conducted to make students aware of the ill effects of drugs. He added that there should be counseling facility for students in the campuses in this regard.

On this occasion, the members of the Consortium briefed the Governor Punjab in detail about the various recommendations.

Convener/Pro-Vice-Chancellor Bahauddin Zakaria University, Dr. Muhammad Ali, Vice-Chancellor Faisalabad Medical University Prof. Dr. Zafar Ali Chaudhry, Vice-Chancellor Nishtar Medical University Multan Prof. Dr. Rana Altaf Ahmed, Vice-Chancellor GC University Lahore Prof. Dr. Asghar Ali Zaidi, Vice-Chancellor University of Health Sciences Lahore Professor Ahsan Waheed Rathore, Vice-Chancellor Women University Multan Professor Dr. Director ANF Raja Tariq Mehmood participated in the meeting.

3 siblings died in a tragic traffic accident in Lahore

LAHORE (Online): 3 siblings died due to traffic accident in provincial capital Lahore.

According to rescue authorities, a tragic traffic accident took place on Soi Asal Road near Kahana where two speeding motorcycles have been collided with a tractor trolley parked on the side of the road.

Authorities have said that as a result of the accident, three siblings died while the mother and two sons were injured.

Minister vows to arrest miscreants behind attacks on Sikh youth

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Information Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Monday said the law enforcing agencies and police were actively pursuing the two attacks on Sikh youth in the provincial capital and assured that soon the miscreants would be brought to justice.

The Minister arrived here at Gurdwara Bhai Joga Singh, Mohalla Jogan Shah and consoled with the bereaved family of 32-year old

Manmohan Singh a Sikh shopkeeper who was shot dead in Rashidgarhi Bazaar here on Saturday. The Minister conveyed his heartfelt sorrow and grief to later Manmohan Singh's father and brother and assured that soon the culprit would be arrested and given exemplary punishment. He said that no one would be allowed to disturb the peace and atmosphere of brotherhood in the province and reiterated the resolve of the KP government to ensure protection of lives.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab/Chancellor Muhammad Balighur Rehman chairing a meeting of Consortium on Drug and Narcotics Control at Governor House

Ahmed Hassan says: PML-N to come up to people's expectations

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister's Coordinator Khawaja Ahmed Hassan said on Monday the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) government was determined to steering the country out of prevailing crises and it would come up to people's expectations.

He was addressing a meeting, called to review the ongoing development work in the city and arrangements in connection with the Eidul Azha at the Aiwan Iqbal Complex. With sincere efforts of the government, the country would get out of the prevailing crises soon, he said adding that the leadership would mitigate the effects of the damage, caused to the economy by politics of

vandalism, and it would be compensated by working hard.

Former MNA Mehar Ishtiaq, MPA Ch Shehbaz, Rabia Farooqi, Ramzan Siddique Bhatti, Syed Tauseef Shah, MD LWMC Babar Sahibuddin, DG PHA Naem Watto, DMD WASA Abdul Karim, representatives of Walled City of Lahore Authority, Punjab Police and others were present.

Khawaja Ahmed Hassan said that despite difficult circumstances, the government was providing resources worth billions of rupees to improve the quality of life to people whereas comprehensive reforms were being introduced for rapid development of the province.

KP registers 40 dengue cases in one week

PESHAWAR (APP): The provincial health department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Monday called for more pragmatic measures to control the spread of dengue fever in the province as at least 40 cases were reported within a week from across the province. A comparative report of dengue fever cases issued here by the department revealed that 13 cases were reported from Mardan, 11 Peshawar, five Bajaur, three Chitral, two each from DI Khan and Swabi and one each from Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Khyber and Kohat districts. It said that the health department in collaboration with the district administrations and other line departments kept the dengue cases under control this year as compare to the last year.

International News

Russian PM urges citizens to rally behind Putin after aborted mutiny

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said on Monday that the country had faced "a challenge to its stability" and must remain united behind President Vladimir Putin following Saturday's abortive mutiny by heavily armed mercenary fighters.

Under a deal late on Saturday that defused the crisis and averted possible bloodshed, the Kremlin said the Wagner Group mercenaries would return to base, while their leader Yevgeny

Prigozhin would move to Belarus. All criminal charges against him and his fighters would be dropped, the Kremlin said.

In what appeared to be the first public comments by a senior Russian official since then, Mishustin appealed at a televised government meeting for national unity in the face of what he said were efforts by the West to undermine Russia.

"The main thing in these conditions is to ensure the sovereignty and

independence of our country, the security and well-being of citizens," said Mishustin, a technocrat who was appointed prime minister in 2020.

"For this, the consolidation of the whole of society is especially important; we need to act together, as one team, and maintain the unity of all forces, rallying around the president," he said. Mishustin, a former head of Russia's federal tax service, also took a swipe at the West.

"As the president

noted, virtually the entire military, economic, information machine of the West is directed against us," he said.

Putin said on Saturday that the rebellion by the Wagner mercenary force had threatened Russia's very existence under threat and vowed to crush it.

However, he has not publicly commented since then on the dramatic events or on the deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko that defused the crisis.



WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden arrives in the East Room with Vice President Kamala Harris and Jeff Say for an event about high speed internet infrastructure at the White House.



MOSCOW: Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko and Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang in Beijing.

At least 3 dead, dozens of homes damaged after storms hit US Midwest, South

Monitoring Desk
INDIANA: Tornadoes and thunderstorms hit the US Midwest and South a day earlier, leaving dozens of homes damaged and at least three people dead in Indiana and Arkansas, authorities said on Monday.

The National Weather Service said multiple tornadoes and severe storms were reported on Sunday in central Indiana and Arkansas.

Emergency officials from Martin County, Indiana, confirmed one death in the area. Emergency Management Director Cameron Wolf said the victim's injured partner was airlifted to hospital. They lived in a two-storey log cabin, which

was destroyed by the storms. Further details were not immediately available.

"Damage is random, it's kind of widespread," Wolf said in an interview with PBS. The damage mostly happened out in the countryside, he said, adding that towns were not hit that hard by the storms.

The Lonoke County Sheriff's Office confirmed that two people were killed after a tree fell on a home in Carlisle, Arkansas, due to severe storms on Sunday, a CBS News affiliate said.

Images and footage from local media showed fallen trees had blocked roads and homes were damaged.

Kremlin releases first video statement by Putin since Wagner mutiny

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday issued via the Kremlin website his first statement since an armed mutiny by the Wagner mercenary group, congratulating participants of an industrial forum.

It was not immediately clear when or where Putin's statement was recorded.

UN ship agency chief urges decisive action at environment talks

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Countries must take decisive action at talks aimed at accelerating decarbonisation in the shipping industry, the United Nations' shipping agency chief said on Monday, as pressure for change builds.

Shipping, which transports around 90% of world trade and accounts for nearly 3% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, is facing growing calls from environmentalists and investors to deliver more concrete action including a carbon levy.

China expresses support for Russia after failed mercenary revolt

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: China has expressed support for Russia's efforts to maintain national stability in the wake of a failed uprising by mercenaries that posed a brief but unprecedented challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin's rule.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrei Rudenko was in Beijing on Sunday, a day after Yevgeny Prigozhin called off an advance on Moscow

by his Wagner mercenary group forces and agreed to leave for Belarus in exchange for charges being dropped.

"The Chinese side expressed support for the efforts of the leadership of the Russian Federation to stabilize the situation in the country in connection with the events of June 24, and reaffirmed its interest in strengthening the unity and further prosperity of Russia."

Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group says it shot down an Israeli drone near the southern border

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group said its fighters shot down an Israeli drone Monday that was flying near the border and over southern Lebanon.

The group gave no further details about the type of drone that it claimed was downed near the village of Zibqine just north of the border with Israel.

An Israeli military spokesman said in a tweet that a drone crashed in Lebanon when an Israeli force was performing routine activities. The spokesman, Avichay Adrae, added in Arabic that there were no concerns of information being leaked. The incident comes after weeks of tensions along the Lebanon-Israel border, mainly in a disputed area known as Chebaa Farms. Earlier this month, Israeli soldiers fired tear gas to disperse scores of Lebanese protesters who pelleted the troops with stones along the border.

Blinken says Wagner insurrection shows 'cracks' emerging in Putin's rule

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Sunday that the brief and chaotic insurrection in Russia led by the Wagner paramilitary group shows "cracks" in Russian President Vladimir Putin's role as a leader of the country.

"This is just an added chapter to a very, very bad book that Putin has written for Russia. But what's so striking about it is, it's internal," Blinken told CNN's Dana Bash on "State of the Union," describing the situation as

"extraordinary."

"The fact that you have from within someone directly questioning Putin's authority, directly questioning the premises that upon which he launched this aggression against Ukraine. That, in and of itself, is something very, very powerful. It adds cracks. Where those go, when they get there, too soon to say, but it clearly raises new questions that Putin has to deal with," he said.

The comments from the nation's top diplomat underscore the short-lived

intensity of a crisis that started when Yevgeny Prigozhin, the head of the Wagner Group, marched his fighters toward Moscow, taking control of Russian military facilities along the way. Prigozhin on Friday openly accused Russia's military of attacking a Wagner camp and killing a "huge amount" of his men. For months, he had railed against Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and the country's top general, Valery Gerasimov, whom he blames for Moscow's faltering invasion of Ukraine.

Airport worker dies after plane engine 'ingests' him

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US regulators said on Sunday they are investigating an incident in which a Texas airport worker was killed after being sucked into a passenger plane engine.

A Delta flight had arrived in San Antonio, Texas from Los Angeles on Friday night and was taxiing to the gate with one engine on "when a worker was ingested into that engine."

North Korea holds rallies denouncing US, warns of nuclear war

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea held mass rallies in Pyongyang where people shouted slogans vowing a "war of revenge" to destroy the United States, as it marked the 73rd anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, state media reported on Monday. About 120,000 working people and students took part in the rallies held across the capital on Sunday, state news

agency KCNA reported. Photos released by state media showed a stadium crowded with people holding placards reading "The whole U.S. mainland is within our shooting range" and "The imperialist U.S. is the destroyer of peace." Sunday's anniversary came amid concerns Pyongyang could soon conduct another launch of its first military spy satellite to boost monitoring of U.S. military activities.

SBP raises policy rate to 22% amid recent financial developments

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan, on Monday, decided to raise the policy rate by 100 bps to 22 percent for keeping real interest rate firmly in the positive territory amid recent developments.

The decision, effective from 27th June 2023, was taken in an emergency meeting of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) convened here to review the overall economic situation particularly the potential effects of budgetary measures and relaxation in imports, said a statement issued here by the Central Bank.

The MPC in its meeting held on 12th June decided to maintain the policy rate unchanged at 21% terming the then monetary

policy stance as appropriate to achieve the objective of price stability "barring any unexpected domestic and external shocks."

The MPC further noted that, this outlook was "contingent on effectively addressing the prevailing domestic uncertainty and external vulnerabilities."

The Committee in its emergency meeting, however, had noted two important domestic developments since the last meeting - certain upward revisions in taxes, duties and PDL rate in FY24 budget and withdrawal of SBP's general guidance for commercial banks on prioritisation of imports - that have slightly deteriorated inflation outlook and which could potentially increase pressure on

the already stressed external account, the statement said.

The measures have increased the upside risks to the inflation outlook, the MPC noted and viewed that additional tax measures were likely to contribute to inflation both directly and indirectly, while the relaxation in imports may exert pressures in the foreign exchange market.

"The latter may result in higher-than-earlier anticipated exchange rate pass-through to domestic prices," it further added.

The MPC termed the decision as necessary to keep real interest rate firmly in the positive territory on a forward-looking basis and hoped that it would help further anchor inflation expectations - which are al-

ready moderating over the last few months, and support bringing down inflation towards the medium term target of 5-7 percent by the end of FY25, barring any unforeseen developments.

The MPC viewed that its decision - along with the expected completion of the ongoing IMF program and the government adhering to the target of generating a primary surplus in FY24 would help in addressing external sector vulnerabilities and reduce economic uncertainty. The Committee reiterated that it would continue to carefully monitor evolving economic developments and stands ready, if necessary, to take appropriate action to achieve the objective of price stability over the medium term.



MUZAFFERABAD: Activists of All Parties Hurriyat Conference holds banner and shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands in the capital of AJK.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chairs the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

Government launches search Columnist goes underground, disappears amidst controversy

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: In a shocking turn of events, acclaimed columnist Syed Fawad Ali Shah has once again disappeared, leaving behind a trail of mystery and intrigue. The Federal Ministry of Interior in Islamabad has taken swift action, issuing a confidential letter to the Inspector Generals of Police across all provinces, urging them to locate the missing journalist and report back immediately.

Government sources reveal that Fawad Ali Shah may have gone into hiding or vanished altogether after being granted temporary bail by the courts. Speculations are rife that Fawad, known for his daring stance against the state, might have managed to flee the country through covert means, potentially crossing the land borders of neighboring India, Iran, or Afghanistan.

The situation has become even more convoluted as conspiracy theories and clandestine investigations swirl within various security agencies, including the Federal Ministry of Defence.

Fawad's involvement in multiple cases pertaining to conspiratorial news and social media campaigns against the government has led to an international travel ban and the revocation of his passport. The cloak of anonymity, these insiders have revealed that if Fawad Ali Shah has indeed managed to secretly enter any foreign country, every available resource will be tirelessly deployed to ensure his swift repatriation.

Collaborations with international agencies such as Interpol and Pakistani diplomatic missions abroad are being sought, as the government aims to establish connections and ensure Shah's return.

The gravity of the situation cannot be overstated. Fawad's actions over the years have cast a shadow of disrepute upon the country.

Pakistan, Kazakhstan hold political consultations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The second round of Pakistan-Kazakhstan Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held on Monday in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Syed Ahsan Raza Shah led Pakistan side while Kazakhstan side was led by Kanat Tumys, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

During the consultations, both sides held extensive discussions on various facets of bilateral relations in the political and diplomatic, trade, economic connectivity, science & technology and culture sectors.

The two sides also exchanged views on issues of regional and global importance.

Big news - new policy parameters to boost music industry: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday announced finalization of the country's first-ever music policy draft, which would ultimately prove to be a big news for the industry.

The new policy incentives and initiatives would eventually boost the music industry since they would effectively redress piracy, copyrights and other pertinent issues, she said in a statement.

The minister said the music policy had been prepared in accordance with the international standards and also considering the relevant laws in vogue in the neighbouring countries.

She said the artists' public performance, production, distribution, adaptation, duration, and mechanical and communication rights were also brought into legal framework through the policy.

Through such measures, the problem of users and licensees would also be solved, which would give a boost to the music industry, she added.

The minister said the end of monopoly, the basic legal rights of music industry workers would also be protected under the proposed policy.

All issues and demands of the music stakeholders, including copyrights, would be resolved, she reiterated.

The policy, she said, would also protect the legal rights of music producers, singers, writers and lyricists, besides resolving the long-standing issues of the industry related to sales, copying and piracy.

The minister said the policy also included special measures to preserve classic music.

Saudi media minister affirms strong fraternal relations with Pakistan, calls it 'his country'

MAKKAH (APP): Saudi Arabia's Minister of Media, Salman Al-Dosari, expressed his deep bond with Pakistan, referring to it as his country, while emphasizing that Saudi Arabia serves as a second home for Pakistanis.

During a comprehensive meeting held in Mina the other day, the Minister engaged with a delegation of Pakistani journalists, underscoring the strong fraternal relations between the two nations.

Al-Dosari conveyed his heartfelt sentiment that Pakistanis are considered brothers, and Saudi Arabia welcomes them as a second home.

Recognizing the importance of fostering bilateral cooperation in the media sector, Salman Al-Dosari highlighted the ongoing efforts to strengthen ties with Pakistani media.

Emphasizing the significance of mutual collaboration, he affirmed that both countries are actively promoting this alliance.

In response, the Pakistani delegation expressed sincere appreciation to the Saudi authorities and government for the impeccable arrangements made for Hajj 2023.

13 killed in rain related incidents: PDMA

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Imran Qureshi has said that at least 13 people died with 17 severely and 6 minor injuries in 15 lightning strikes and roof collapse incidents due to heavy rains across the province during the last 24 hours.

He said the PDMA has received reports of damages and casualties from all districts of the province, said a handout issued here. The injured have been provided with the best medical treatment while monitoring of the situation is continuing from the provincial control room, he said and added that machinery and staff have been put on high alert for handling emergencies as the PDMA is in constant contact with the province-wide administration.

The DG PDMA said the alert issued regarding upcoming rains, thunderstorms and rainfall with lightning in Lahore, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Sargodha, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Mianwali, Hafizabad, Mandi Bahauddin, Sialkot, Narowal, Bhakkar, Layyah, Gujrat, Sheikhupura, Murree, Galyat, and adjoining areas was expected until June 27, whereas some areas may receive heavy rainfall with gusty winds.

PCG seizes hashish, crystal ice worth \$136mln

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) on Monday seized contraband items worth \$136 million in Balochistan.

According to the Pakistan Coast Guards spokesperson, the hashish, crystal ice, and heroin were seized during an operation on a tip-off in Balochistan's Karkapur.

The team of PCG raided a vacant house in Karkapur and recovered high-quality 5,166 kilograms of hashish, 274 kg of crystal ice and 53 kg of heroin worth \$136 million in the international market.

The spokesperson for Pakistan Coast Guards further said the contraband items were to be smuggled abroad.

The case has been registered after seizing the contraband items. Separately, Coast Guards seized huge quantities of contraband items, in two separate actions in Balochistan.



HUB: Pakistan Coast Guard Officials are showing huge apprehended drugs worth millions of rupees, during raid on local area of Karkapur, during press conference held at PCG Headquarters in Hub.



HYDERABAD: Doctors and paramedics staff of Dermatology Department attend an awareness walk in connection with World Allergy Week, at OPD of Civil Hospital, in City.

Pakistan wins 10 golds as Special Olympics concludes

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan won a total of 10 gold medals in the 16th Special Olympics World Games, which concluded on Sunday in Berlin.

The number of golds in Pakistan's kitty increased after cyclist Safer Abid clinched one in the 10km time trial race during the games' cycling event. He completed the 10km distance in 23 minutes and 02.02 seconds.

This was the first time that Safer, who hails from Karachi, has participated in the World Games. The cyclist had been preparing for the special sporting event since the last two years, he said.

"I have the passion to win more medals for Pakistan in the upcoming international events," Safer said.

In the 500m time trial race, Madeeha Tahir of Pakistan won the silver medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 14.15 seconds, while Amina Arshad won the bronze medal by covering the distance in 1 minute and 16.82 seconds.

In the final of the futsal event, Oman won the gold medal by defeating Pakistan by 6-3 goals. Pakistan finished second with the silver medal.

Pakistan stood fourth in women's doubles, men's singles and unified men's doubles of the tennis event.

In the Bocce team event, Pakistan's Mahnoor, Simran Mahesh Lal, Jamilur Rahman and Farhan Aslam won the silver medal after defeating Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Farhan Aslam won the bronze medal in men's singles, and Mahnoor won the bronze medal in women's singles.

Earlier, Pakistan's Muhammad Luqman and Habibullah clinched gold medals to increase the country's gold medals tally.

Luqman bagged gold in the 100m race by clocking 15.21 seconds of timing. He also won a silver medal in the long jump.

Meanwhile, in powerlifting, Habibullah won gold in the 83 kilogramme deadlift. He also won silvers in squat, bench press and combined weight.

CTD nabs four suspected terrorists in Karachi involved in multiple robberies

KARACHI (INP): In a significant operation, the Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has nabbed four suspected terrorists in Karachi suspected of carrying out a series of robberies.

The CTD spokesperson confirmed that the suspects were arrested in injured condition.

According to the CTD, the arrested individuals were involved in various criminal activities, including robberies, carjackings, and street crimes.

Police arrest 3 suspects

HYDERABAD (APP): The A-Section police arrested three suspects including one in injured condition after an encounter in Latifabad.

The police spokesman informed here on Monday that the police were conducting routine snap-checking when six suspects riding on a motorbike opened fire on them in a bid to escape.

He added that in the exchange of fire, Kamran alias Kami sustained a gunshot to his leg while two other suspects riding with him on the motorbike, Umar Farooq alias Mushki and Sajjad, were also arrested.

Mayor Karachi asks JI's Hafiz Naem to sit together for development of Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Monday asked Jamaat-e-Islami's (JI) Hafiz Naem Ur Rehman to sit together for the development of Karachi so that the problems of the people could be resolved.

He said this while addressing the ceremony organized on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of Allama Iqbal Park in Federal B. Area Block 14 on Monday. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that like Jahangir Park in Saddar Karachi, Allama Iqbal Park is being constructed in a cost of Rs 250 million, it is a beautiful gift from Pakistan Peoples Party to the people of District Central.

Allama Iqbal Park will be completed in a period of three months and the project has three components, the park will be built on two acres and a football and a cricket ground will be built on three acres under Karachi Mega Projects, he said.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the People's Party believes only in public service instead of power, they want to share love and connect hearts among people, Pakistan People's Party will continue its journey of development in every street of Karachi. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, PPP Central District President Masroor Ahsan, General Secretary Dil Muhammad Deputy Commissioner Central Taha Saleem and other officers and elected representatives were also present.

DC chairs meeting regarding Eid-ul-Adha arrangements

NAWABSHAH (APP): DC said that he himself would visit different areas of the district to watch the sanitation situation.

He said that sanitation staff of the area would be strictly dealt with where sanitation is not found in proper condition. DC instructed DSP Daur to make better arrangements for Tehsil Daur citizens during Eid prayers.

Assistant Commissioner Daur was directed to set up a Control Room at his office for compliance of complaints in the wake of Eid Ul Azha and expected monsoon rains while focal persons of different departments shall be posted there.

The concerned officials of different government departments were instructed to ensure the cleaning of drainage nullahs.

Deputy Commissioner Shehryar Gul Memon chaired a meeting at Town Committee Office Daur.

Instructing all the officials of Town Committee, the DC said that one rickshaw for each ward and plastic bags shall be provided to each person sacrificing animals on all the three days of Eid so that animal waste could be lifted easily. DC said that attendance of sanitation staff should be ensured while steps be taken for shifting of sacrificial animal waste at some suitable site outside the towns.



KARACHI: A large number of vehicle are stuck in the massive traffic jam at Pakistan Avenue in Provincial Capital.

CONDOLENCE

THE ALL PAKISTAN NEWSPAPERS SOCIETY

expresses profound grief over the sad demise of

mother of

Mr. Saeed Ahmed Khan

Accounts Officer, APNS.

May Allah the Almighty rest her

soul in eternal peace and grant

courage to the family to bear the loss.

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