

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vol: XXIV No. 294, Zee'qad 26, 1444 AH Wednesday June 14, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Amid nearing Pakistan's coastlines Biparjoy weakens into 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm' - Cat 3

PM directs utilizing all-out resources for people's protection amid Biparjoy cyclone; Evacuation underway from potentially under threat coastal areas; NDMA directs provincial authorities to ensure additional measures to manage TC Biparjoy; Sindh govt puts hospitals on high alert, appoints focal persons in 20 districts; Biparjoy poses no major risk to power infrastructure, measures ready for unimpeded power supply: Dastgir

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Tropical Cyclone 'Biparjoy' has weakened into a 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm' (VSCS)-Category 3, with sustained windspeeds of approximately 140-150 kilometers per hour (km/h) and gusts up to 170 km/h after it started reaching closer to the coastline of the country.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the current location was near Latitude 20.7° N and Longitude 67.1° E, roughly 460 km south of Karachi and 450 km south of Thatta and 565 km southeast of Ormara.

According to the latest forecast, tropical cyclone Biparjoy was expected to maintain a northward trajectory until the morning of June 14 and then it was likely to recurve eastward and would make landfall between Keti Bandar (Southeast Sindh Coastline) and the Indian Gujarat Coastline in the afternoon of June 15, as a Very Severe Cyclonic Storm (VSCS).

The areas likely to be affected included Thatta, Badin, Sajawal, Tharparkar, Karachi, Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Hyderabad, Ormara, Tando Allah Yar Khan and Tando Mohammad Khan. These

findings have been developed by the National Emergencies Operation Centre (NEOC) Technical team using international and national models (PMD-NWPM, NASA, PDC & UKM, IMD, BOM-A, and ECMWF).

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed the Sindh provincial government, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other relevant organisations to utilise all-out resources to ensure people's protection keeping in view the Biparjoy cyclone.

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting regarding preparedness and measures taken for the approaching "Biparjoy" Cyclone.

Imran failed to provide evidence of assassination claim before JIT: Sana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Tuesday said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman had confessed during investigations that the allegation he had leveled against the prime minister and him for planning his murder were baseless and unfounded.

Addressing a press conference, he said when the PTI chief was asked about the basis of his accusations, he simply stated, "I was informed by someone," without nominating anyone.

Similarly, the minister added, the PTI leader also admitted that the derogatory comments about the armed forces and the army chief were baseless.

All the confessions he had made in the written

statement, clearly showed that no one could match him in propagating lies and unfounded accusations, he added.

Rana Sana further said the public about the concocted plot for his assassination and brainwashed the youth in that regard. The rioting and vandalizing witnessed by the nation on May 9 was the outcome of the so-called Tiger Force of one million people raised by the "Dar of Sialkot" on the behest of his leader, he added.

He said public resources were ruthlessly used for the Tiger Force, and even funds allocated for combating the coronavirus were also spent for the purpose, and details regarding that would be made public soon.



LANDIKOTAL: First consignment of Russian LPG reaches Pakistan, at Torkham Border in Landikotal

First consignment of Russian LPG reaches Pakistan

By M.Ilyas
PESHAWAR: The first shipment of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) from Russia reached Pakistan through Torkham border.

The LPG cargo consists of 10 tankers, 100,000 Tons of LPG purchased from Russia is a part of the Pakistan-Russia agreement. The first rail of LPG from Russia was delivered to Uzbekistan, while the LPG of Russian gas entered Pakistan through Afghanistan through tankers from Uzbekistan. Clearance process is ongoing.

According to Pakistani customs authorities, for the first time, the supply of

Russian gas tankers has been made possible through Pak Afghan Torkham border.

On Sunday, the first shipment of Russian crude oil reached Port Qasim which was later transported to Pakistan Refinery Limited (PRL) for processing. The second shipment of Russian crude oil is likely to reach Pakistan during the next week. Pakistan has planned to take the Russian crude oil to one third of its total oil import. On achieving the target, petrol prices could drop significantly that would be a much-needed relief for the inflation hit people.

PM to visit Azerbaijan from 14-15 June

ISLAMABAD (Online): At the invitation of President Ilham Aliyev, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will undertake an official visit to Azerbaijan from 14-15 June 2023. Ministers representing the priority areas of cooperation with Azerbaijan will be part of the Prime Minister's entourage.

Prime Minister will hold wide-ranging talks with President Ilham Aliyev on key areas of cooperation including trade, investment and energy. Regional and global issues of mutual concern and cooperation in multilateral forums will also be discussed.

Pakistan-Azerbaijan relationship is embedded in commonalities of faith, culture and history, and strengthened by mutual trust and convergence of views on regional and global matters.

Frequent leadership level exchanges highlight the bonds of friendship between the two countries and contribute to closer multifaceted cooperation for the mutual benefit of the people of Pakistan and Azerbaijan.

5.6 magnitude earthquake jolts Lahore, other parts of country

LAHORE (Online): An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale struck eastern Kashmir on Tuesday, setting off tremors that were felt in Islamabad, Lahore and other parts of the country.

The Pakistan Meteorological Department said the earthquake originated at 1:04pm with its epicentre in Eastern Kashmir at the depth of 10 kilometres. It recorded the earthquake's longitude at 75.97 E and latitude at 33.32 N. Tremors were also felt in Rawalpindi, Jhelum, Hafizabad, Azad Kashmir and other areas.



SUJAWAL: Pakistan Army Emergency Response Teams officials evacuating local populace from Coastal areas due to tropical extremely severe cyclone storm named Biparjoy, during relief operation in various Goths of Golarchi area in Sujawal.

Cyclone Biparjoy threat: CM appeals to public, fishermen of coastal areas to cooperate with local administration

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has appealed to the public and fishermen of the coastal areas to cooperate with local administration in view of the cyclonic threat Biparjoy.

According to an official handout issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the government has already made necessary preparations in view of the cyclone. Still, the cooperation of local people and fishermen is necessary, adding he stressed.

He urged the people to follow the directives and guidelines of the local administration and other concerned departments to avoid any mishap in this regard.

Meanwhile, Director General PDMA, Jahanzaib Khan has stated that all necessary preparations have been made ahead of the cyclone and tackle any emergent situation in coastal areas of the province.

He also said that the required relief items have also been made available in Hub, Lasbela and Gwadar districts to provide relief to the dwellers.

Those who burnt Jinnah House & pictures are not patriots: Marriyum



LAHORE: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb visiting Jinnah House.

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said those who had burnt the house and pictures of Quaid-i-Azam Ali Jinnah on May 9 could neither be regarded as responsible citizens nor patriots.

"A rioter, Fitna, and mastermind spearheaded the armed groups vandalizing the Jinnah House from his home," the minister said while talking to the media during her visit to the Jinnah House.

She regretted that not

only the house of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah was burnt by the armed groups on the directives of the PTI chairman but his invaluable and historic pictures and portraits displayed in the corridor were also set on fire.

A mosque on the premises of the Jinnah House was also burnt in the regrettable incident, she added.

The minister said on May 9, schools, ambulances, memorials of martyrs, the iconic fighter jet of M M Alam, and the

Continued on page 2

CM directs IGP to lift ban imposed on business of Iranian petrol in Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has taken notice of the ban on business of Iranian petroleum products in Quetta and its surrounding areas and directed the Inspector General of Police to lift it immediately.

According to an official handout issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister said that the people are earning livelihood for them and their families by doing small business of Iranian products because of lack of opportunities of the employments.

The Chief Minister maintained that provincial government is providing jobs to the youth of province, however, it can't give jobs to all the unemployed people, he added. He also said that there are least factories and private sector in the province and if this business of the people would also be closed, then most of the people would be deprived of their livelihood.

Meanwhile, the IGP issued directives to the concerned to stop crackdown against those doing the business of Iranian products, on directives of the Chief Minister. The general public has hailed the decision of Chief minister in this regard.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango presiding over a meeting of Commissioner for Missing Persons

'Govt has presented historical, youth oriented budget': PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said the government had presented a historical budget 2023-24 specifically designed for youth to help start their entrepreneurship activities that would also create more jobs in the country.

He said that the confidence and the hope could be restored by eliminating disappointments and ensuring socio-economic development of the country.

"By the will of Allah Almighty, the upcoming year will be the year of increased income generation of the people and the country," he said in a statement issued by the Prime Minister Office.

This was the budget

for economic stability and quick development in various sectors including industry, agriculture, information technology and energy, he said adding that the budget would also provide the youth with the opportunity to create jobs for others by starting their own entrepreneurship.

"Youth are the country's future and saving their future has always been my top priority," he added.

PM Shehbaz said with the help of initiatives announced by the government in the budget 2023-24, the youth would become the architects of Pakistan's development by starting their own businesses in IT, industry and agriculture sectors.



QUETTA: Deputy Consul General of Japan in Pakistan Nakagawa Yasushi meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Governor expects Japan's enhanced cooperation in different welfare projects

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that Pakistan and Japan enjoy pleasant relations and there are chances of expanding existing bilateral relations in different sectors further.

He said that Japan has always cooperated with us in every difficult time, whether it is any natural calamity or matter of development of human resource, Japan has always extended wholehearted cooperation to us.

The Governor expressed the hope that Japan would extend its cooperation and support in investment and different welfare projects in the province.

The Governor was speaking to Deputy Consul General Mr. Nakagawa Yasushi who called on him here on Tuesday.

The Governor on the occasion said that Japan is a developed country, which

also needs skilled human resource. While we have a large portion of our population consisted of younger generation, and they are included both skilled and unskilled youth, he mentioned adding that Japan can help us in imparting technical education to our youth while we can help Japan in provision of young human resource.

The Governor also expected that Japan can offer our youngsters scholarships to get technical education.

Referring the law and order situation in Balochistan, the Governor said that the situation of law and order has been improved in the province over the time. In addition to this, there are ample opportunities of investment in different sectors right from mining to fisheries, he pointed out. In this regard, the government is ready to extend every kind of protection to the investors in Balochistan, he pledged.



QUETTA: On the directives of Chief Minister Balochistan, Additional Chief Secretary Development Hafiz Abdul Basit, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Ghichki and secretaries of concerned departments attending a meeting to review public schemes for upcoming financial year

PAC recovers Rs. 1trln in year, exposes corruption in mega projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Public Accounts Committee (PAC) successfully recovered around one trillion rupees over the past year, with a commitment to taking decisive action against individuals who have harmed the national exchequer.

These revelations were made by Chairman PAC MNA Noor Alam Khan during the budget debate on Tuesday in the National Assembly. As the Chairman of PAC for the past year, Noor Alam Khan emphasized the committee's efforts in recovering the substantial amount, clarifying that it was a collective accomplishment, not solely his own. He emphasized

that he did not witness any preferential treatment or bias among the Members of the National Assembly (MNAs) during the recovery process and functioning of PAC.

He further declared that he draws a monthly salary of Rs. 168,000 as an MNA and an additional Rs. 20,000 as Chairman of the PAC. He said that individuals engaged in corrupt practices should face the consequences of their actions.

During his speech, Chairman Khan exposed instances of corruption amounting to billions of rupees in programs such as the Ten Billion Tree Tsu

Continued on page 2

Bilawal appeals to people for cooperation, precautions in view of cyclone 'Biparjoy'

KARACHI (APP): Chairman Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has appealed to the public to take protective measures and to cooperate with the administration in view of the cyclone "Biparjoy".

According to the statement issued by Media Cell Bilawal House here on Tuesday,

The PPP Chairman said that according to meteorological reports, the coastal areas of Karachi, Thatta, Sujawal and Badin are under threat of the 'Biparjoy'.

He said that the government of Sindh is alert in view of the cyclone and is taking all possible safety

measures, adding that all possible resources are being utilised to protect the life and property of the people.

Bilawal said that the people, especially those living in the coastal areas, should cooperate with the administration and move to safer places without delay.

He emphasized that citizens living in old and dilapidated buildings should also be shifted to safer places on emergency basis.

He also appealed to the fishermen not to go into the open sea for the next few days until the weather returns to normal.

"Travelling during rainstorms should be avoided, as taking all precautionary

measures is the only way to avoid the potential damage of a natural calamity," he added.

Bilawal also instructed his Party's office-bearers and workers to lend a helping hand to the administration in rescue and relief activities, while the lawmakers of the party from the coastal areas should remain in their respective constituencies and stay in touch with the people.

"PPP is always with the people, be it happy moments or difficult times," he added.

He prayed, "May Allah Almighty protect every nook and corner of Pakistan and every Pakistani from natural calamities and keep them safe."



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA, Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on June 13, 2023, and briefed the Prime Minister about preparations to deal with Cyclone "Biparjoy".

President condoles with family members of martyred soldiers

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday condoled with the bereaved family members of the Pakistan Army soldiers who embraced martyrdom for the country.

He paid tribute to the martyrs for sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country's security.

He called over the telephone, the family members of martyred Sepoy Inayatullah and Hasnain Ishtiaq, who embraced martyrdom in Sangwan, Balochistan on June 1, and expressed sympathies with them.

He also hailed the martyrs' patriotism and bravery.

The president also phoned the father of Lance Naek Meraj Uddin who was martyred in North Waziristan on June 3.

Besides, he called the

father of Naek Zaheer Abbas who embraced martyrdom in Mir Ali on June 4, and expressed his heartfelt condolence to him.

The president also extended his sympathies to the bereaved family members of Havaldar Muhammad Anwar and Naeb Subedar Ghulam Murtaza who were martyred in Jani Khel on June 4.

President Alvi also contacted the family members of Lance Naek Sabir who embraced martyrdom in South Waziristan on June 5.

Paying tributes to the services and sacrifices of the martyrs for their country, President Alvi thanked the families of the martyrs on behalf of the nation.

He also prayed to Almighty Allah for the elevation of ranks of the departed souls in paradise.

CJP orders EOBI to decide dispute about properties within 6 weeks

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has ordered EOBI to decide the dispute related to properties within 6 weeks.

The CJP maintained "return the money to whom this has to be returned otherwise property be handed over to them."

The CJP further observed EOBI will have to find out solution to this problem. The property prices will have reached at present to what higher level as compared to 10 years.

Those are also Pakistanis whose million of rupees are trapped. Court remains dissatisfied in the matter of money.

He further remarked EOBI is a larger institution. Make it stand on its feet.

EOBI corruption case came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Umar Ata Bandial Tuesday.

The counsel Makhdoom Ali Khan took the plea before the court 10 years have passed and the affectees are still engaged in the court. EOBI could take no decision about the properties in 10 years. Properties are with EOBI and money is deposited in the SC.

EOBI authorities sought time from SC to resolve the matter.

The CJP while accepting this plea remarked it is hoped EOBI will make decision honestly.

The court while directing EOBI to file report after deciding the dispute regarding the properties within 6 weeks adjourned the hearing of the case till August.

Pakistan Post advances 7 spots in World Postal Rankings: Asad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mehmood was overjoyed as Pakistan Post moved up to seven spots in the 2022 World Postal Rankings, released by Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Mehmood who was the chief guest at the inauguration ceremony of "UMS-Ovenight" Service by Pakistan Post here on Tuesday, said Pakistan Post has reached 155th position from 162 in the world ranking, and further improvements would be made in order to reach new heights.

Pakistan Post has moved up to seven spots under his tenure in the Postal Ranking Index which is based on four pillars namely reliability, delivery, relevance and flexibility.

Speaking about the "UMS-Ovenight" Service, he said Pakistan Post has upgraded its Express Mail network and this service would begin in nine major cities to provide convenience to the customers.

He said currently next-day delivery would be in nine cities including Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Jhelum, Gujranwala and Gujrat.

The minister said UMS overnight include computerized billing and track and trace, special packing and branding, billing and SMS alert at the time of delivery.

Next-day mail delivery is the main feature of this service which has a total of 72 routes, he said.

Mehmood said Pakistan Post has upgraded its express mail network to meet the needs of time-sensitive customers. This service will also be rolled out across the country in other cities in the time to come.

Convenience to customers and ensuring the timely distribution of mail is our top priority by improving the delivery process. This up-gradation will give Pakistan Post an opportunity to find out its weaknesses in mail delivery and improve them, he said.

He said this service would help Pakistan Post regain its trust in people and business. As a result, customers' confidence in Pakistan Post will also be restored, he said.

Mehmood said since he took charge, he has tried to correct the direction of Pakistan Post. I met with the Director General of Universal Postal Union (UPU) and approved a project from UPU to improve the postal delivery system. Under this project, Pakistan Post with UPU support has already distributed 1000 Honda CD70 motorcycles to its delivery staff, which has resulted in improved mail delivery and distribution.

Minister says: Completion of Basha, Mohmand, Dasu to usher progress prosperity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah, believed that the completion of the Diamer Basha, Mohmand, and Dasu dams would contribute to achieving progress and prosperity in the country.

Taking part in a general discussion on the budget for the year 2023-24 on Tuesday, he expressed the hope that Pakistan would be able to issue loans to other countries after the completion of dams, as they would generate cheaper electricity.

However, he mentioned that insufficient funds had been allocated for the construction of these dams and suggested freezing the development funds of other projects and allocating the entire amount for dam construction. The minister emphasized that the parliament had enacted the constitution and legislation for the welfare of the people.

He praised the passage of the 18th Amendment, which empowered provinces and strengthened democracy and the country's politics.



QUETTA: Home Minister Mir Ziaullah Lango, opposition leader Malik Sikandar Advocate, MPAs Babar Rahim Mengal and Akbar Mengal meeting with Principal Secretary of Chief Minister Imran Gichki

Those who burnt Jinnah House....

Continued from page 1

statue of martyred Captain Sher Khan were put on fire and vandalized by the unruly mobs, she recalled, rejecting the notion that vandalism was part of a political protest.

No patriot could even think of such heinous acts which were unacceptable and unforgivable, she remarked.

The minister reaffirmed that those who were involved in the violent incidents of May 9 would be brought to justice at all costs, as the people of Pakistan would never forget the painful day.

Mariyum said the whole nation and the patriotic political parties were united and unanimous that the planners, including the mastermind, and attackers of May 9 tragedy should be punished.

She said the architect of May 9 tragedy was still misleading the nation with his conflicting statements. Sometimes he said his workers were responsible for the tragedy and sometimes he blamed the media squarely for all the mayhem on that day.

The person, who had hatched the conspiracy

while sitting at his residence in Zaman Park, continued to churn out lies about human rights conditions in the country, she added.

The abettors of the crime would also be taken to the task, she said, calling for a thorough investigation about the PTI chief's role in the May 9 tragedy.

"What was the fault of the school going children? Why their vans were set on fire?" the minister questioned.

She said exemplary punishments should be given to the perpetrators, masterminds and executioners of the May 9 tragedy.

To a query, Mariyum said there was no politics involved in the incidents of May 9. The culprits would be tried under the relevant laws.

"Our position is clear that innocent people will not be punished, as the persons involved in the May 9 rioting have been identified through geo-fencing."

The minister condemned another conspiracy of the PTI leaders, who tried to tarnish the country's image by alleging

rape and torture of their women members in police custody. The women themselves told the media that there was no reality in such allegations.

The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, she said, had also rejected the allegations and categorically stated that no woman was raped in police custody or jail.

To another query, she said the PTI received funding from their foreign masters to mislead the youth for harming the national interests.

She alleged that the PTI chairman had brainwashed the youth to fulfill his nefarious designs.

Mariyum reiterated that the perpetrators of the May 9 tragedy would definitely be punished. The three-time elected prime minister (Nawaz Sharif) had set an example that no one was above law and face trial in fake cases.

There would be no negotiations with those who had disrespected and burnt the memorials of martyrs and they would be punished, the minister maintained.

Pak Navy evacuated 700 villagers in Shah Bandar, 64 fishermen rescued from sea

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy troops evacuated 700 personnel from various villages of Shah Bandar- a coastal town of district Sujawal- while 64 fishermen have been rescued from sea.

PN Ships are patrolling and maintaining vigilance in open sea to render assistance to vessels in distress amid tropical cyclone Biparjoy, said a statement issued here on Tuesday.

Pakistan Navy has put all its available resources at high alert with requisite assets to provide assistance to the inhabitants of coastal areas of Sindh in case of any emergency amid the tropical cyclone.

A cyclone monitoring cell has been activated at Headquarters Commander Karachi for monitoring the developments and coordinating the responses, the spokesperson informed that PN Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center (JMCC) was relaying information at regular intervals to all stakeholders especially fishermen community so that they not to venture out to open sea in rough weather.

Employees of All PDMC holds protest in the favor of their demands outside Press Club in Provincial Capital.

Employees of All PDMC (Public Distribution Management Centre) in Quetta held a protest in front of the Press Club in the provincial capital, Quetta, on Tuesday. The protesters, who were holding a banner, demanded the government to take steps to improve the salaries and benefits of the employees. They also demanded the government to provide them with better working conditions and facilities. The protest was peaceful and lasted for several hours. The police maintained law and order throughout the event.



GENEVA: Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & HRD, Mr. Sajid Hussain Turi held a crucial meeting with representatives from the Industrial Global Union led by Mr. Kamal, Assistant Secretary General on the sidelines of the 111th Session of the International Labour Conference.

PAC recovers Rs. 1trln in....

Continued from page 1

deceive its people cannot consider themselves true Muslims. He emphasized that Pakistan was founded on Islamic principles.

The Chairman also recalled the disqualification of two prime ministers based on holding Aqama and failing to write a letter. He underscored the responsibility of the apex court to protect the constitution without making changes, as that authority lies with the parliament. He called upon the judiciary to fulfill its role and acknowledged the sacrifices made by politicians in the past for the restoration of deposed judges in 2007.

He highlighted the imprisonment and death sentences imposed on political leaders in the past, while emphasizing that certain individuals still hold unwarranted favoritism toward a particular person. He lamented the backlog of thousands of pending cases in the courts, which disproportionately affects the underprivileged.

namely, the BRT project in Peshawar, the health sector, and the police department. He expressed concerns about the lack of a submitted report regarding corruption complaints surrounding the Mohmand Dam project.

Moreover, as the Chairman PAC, he summoned the Registrar of the apex court, along with records of funding cases related to the Basha Dam, questioning the absence of audits for the account and the failure to utilize Rs. 17 billion collected for the project.

Noor Alam Khan raised a significant question about the allocation of 190 million pounds to an individual, emphasizing that this wealth belonged to Pakistan, and the national exchequer suffered as a result.

Chairman PAC firmly asserted that individuals who exploit Pakistan's wealth, incite unrest, and



QUETTA: All Pakistan Clerk Association (APCA) Provincial President, Dad Muhammad Baloch addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Biparjoy weakens into 'Very Severe Cyclonic Storm' - Cat 3....

Continued from page 1

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the preparedness ahead of the possible impact of the Biparjoy cyclone, asked the Sindh government, NDMA and other organizations to ensure the establishment of mobile hospitals in coastal areas and provide adequate emergency medical assistance there.

He said in view of the storm, special arrangements of clean drinking water and food should be made at the camps of displaced persons.

The prime minister instructed Power Minister Engineer Khurram Dastgir Khan to ensure his presence in the districts of southern Sindh until the effects of the cyclone were over, to monitor the 24-hour power transmission system in the coastal areas.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said after the cyclone, the possible damage to the power transmission system should be repaired immediately.

He also set up a committee to deal with the emergency situation arising in view of the Biparjoy cyclone. To be headed by Climate Change Minister Sherry Rehman, the committee would comprise Power Minister Engineer

Khurram Dastgir Khan, Food Security Minister Tariq Bashir Cheema, NDMA Chairman Lt. Gen. Inam Haider Malik, and representatives of Sindh and Balochistan governments, Meteorological Department and National Institute of Health (NIH).

The prime minister instructed the committee for constant consultation to deal with the situation arising from the cyclone and keep the people aware of any possible emergency. Complete evacuation of people from the coastal areas likely to be affected, should be ensured, besides providing relief materials to them.

"Inshallah, all the institutions will collectively deal with the possible situation arising from the cyclone Biparjoy cyclone," he resolved.

The meeting was briefed on the route of the cyclone and the possible collision with the coastal areas.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has directed the provincial and district disaster management authorities (PDMAs and DDMAs respectively) along with the law enforcement agencies to ensure additional measures for amicably managing the impacts of Tropical Cy-

clone (TC) Biparjoy.

The NDMA, in its recent advisory, outlined the measures for PDMAs and DDMAs including ensuring vigilant monitoring of the tropical cyclone's development and proactive coordination through respective emergency operation centres.

It also instructed to ensure the functionality of early warning systems and ensure prompt dissemination of timely and accurate information to at-risk communities, utilize multiple communication channels, such as television, radio, social media and SMS alerts, conduct extensive and continuous awareness campaigns to effectively reach coastal communities, educate the public on the potential impacts of the cyclone, emergency evacuation procedures and safety measures.

Federal Minister for Power, Khurram Dastgir on Tuesday stated that there was no major risk to power infrastructure in the Sindh province due to tropical cyclone BIPARJOY and all relevant measures were in place to ensure uninterrupted power supply.

In a joint media briefing, the Federal Minister for Power was flanked by Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental

Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman and Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik provided a detailed account of decisions taken in a high level meeting with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on intensifying Tropical Cyclone BIPARJOY.

Khurram Dastgir said liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipments were not coming to Pakistan due to the severe cyclone as shipment schedules had been changed.

Meanwhile Sindh govt puts hospitals on high alert, appoints focal persons in 20 districts.

The Sindh health department has issued precautionary instructions in the wake of any threat from Cyclone Biparjoy.

Focal persons have been appointed in 20 districts. The Rescue 1122 service was alerted to deal with any emergency situation.

Rainfall causes low visibility and slippery roads. In such situations, incidents of electric shocks to people also occur that can cause disabilities.

All hospitals have been put on high alert in the wake of thunderstorms and torrential rains.

TENDER NOTICE

Note: In All Procurements of GOB Whether Through Electronic or Manual Bid Submission, It is Mandatory For All Bidders to Get Registered At Electronic Public Procurement System of BPPRA GOB.

Tender Fee Rs.1000/- & Bid Security 2% TSE-222306339953

The Communication works Planning & Housing Department invites bids from Eligible Bidders for execution of following works for the Year 2023 based on Composite schedule rates 2018 on Percentage Rates

S.No	Name of Works	E/Cost
1	Construction of Primary School Killi Haji Allah Dad Sanglala District Chaman	9,900,000/-

Procurements shall be made under the Balochistan Public Procurement Rules - 2014. **Eligibility of Bidders:** Presence in Active Tax Payer List. The bidding firm must not be blacklisted by any procuring agency of Pakistan Balochistan Revenue Authority Registration is required. The bidder must have completed 3 Assignment of similar nature of work Turn over of at least 6,930,000 PKR Amount in 3 subsequent previous years showing financial capacity of the firm. Registration with Pakistan Engineering Council (PEC) C-6 and above (Upto 25 million) In Relevant Category And Specialized Code is CE11, CE11(i) (General engineering Works only), CE11(iii) (Civil Engineering Tolling & management- For Operational Works), CE11(ii) (For Mine Extraction Works Only), CE11(iv) (FOR LIGHT GAUGE PRE-ENGINEERING GALVANIZED STEEL STRUCTURES ONLY). **Procedure Of Procurement:** Single Stage One Envelope Bidding Procedure **Bid Security:** The bids must accompany Bid Security in the form of **Deposit at Call of 2%** specified above in the name of the under-signed from a scheduled bank. **Tender Documents:** The bidding documents can be obtained from the office of the under-signed, **1,000 PKR issuance of tender Documents:** From the date of publication of NIT to **28 June, 2023** during office hours on working days **Last Date of bid submission:** The tenders must be submitted latest by **28 June, 2023** till **11:00 AM** **Tender opening:** All tenders will be opened on same day at the office of the under- signed at **12:00 PM Address:** Executive Engineer Building CWPP & H department District Chaman **Phone no:** 3328281611 **Email:** chakarkhanjkj@gamil.com

Executive Engineer (Buildings) CWPP&H Department District Chaman

PRQ No.4405/13-6-2023

www.dprgob.pk @dpr_gob dprgob @dprgob

CORRIGENDUM EXTENSION OF SUBMISSION DATE

This relates to the tender Notices **AB No.482/26.05.2023** and **AB No.495/01-06-2023**, certain changes has been made in bidding documents. The bidders who have downloaded Bidding Document(s) before 12 June, 2023 are required to download the amended Bidding Document(s). The tender fee amounting Rs.2000/- will be submitted through green Challan in the head of account C-02716 in any national Bank.

Sr.No	TSE.NO	Submission Date and Time on EPPS System	Opening Date and Time on EPPS System
1.	TSE-22230633163	June, 23 rd , 2023 3:00 PM	June, 23 rd , 2023 4:00PM
2.	TSE-222306332773	June, 23 rd , 2023 2:30 PM	June, 23 rd , 2023 3:30 PM
3.	TSE-222306332773	June, 23 rd , 2023 3:30 PM	June, 23 rd , 2023 4:30 PM

The rest of the terms and conditions shall remain same.

Project Director Ziarat Development Package

AB No.520/13-6-2023

www.dprgob.pk @dpr_gob dprgob @dprgob



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister of Education Rana Tanvir Hussain, Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, Ambassadors of ASEAN countries, Additional Secretary Asia Pacific Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ameer Khurram Rahtore, host Maria Agnes Cerventes, and others cutting cake to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Philippine Independence and Nationhood.

Sherry Rehman says: No need to panic amid Biparjoy's intensification, authorities on alert

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Tropical Cyclone Biparjoy was approaching the coastal areas of Sindh province whereas the federal and provincial departments along with the armed forces were on alert with necessary coordination to manage the natural hazard and save the masses.

Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday briefed the media here on Tropical Cyclone (TC) Biparjoy's imminent impact on the coastline of the Sindh province and urged the masses to avoid panicking on the ground as federal and provincial authorities were ensuring proper measures to address the natural hazard and protect the masses.

The federal minister for climate change was flanked by Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General Inam Haider Malik to provide a detailed synopsis of the ongoing tropical cyclone that emerged in the Arabian Ocean and aggravated after June 5.

Senator Rehman said the TC Biparjoy was under monitoring for the past

many days, and the information being shared through media had to be conveyed to the local masses in a responsible manner. She underlined that these cyclones could unexpectedly change their course, therefore the situation demanded strict stock-taking and continuous monitoring to take adequate measures for coping with any emergent situation.

The Minister informed that the cyclone's landfall had started at the coastline of Gujrat, India, and was heading towards Pakistan. The Makran Coastline would be impacted less but Sindh province was still under threat.

She pointed out that the NDMA Chairman had visited Sindh and held a detailed meeting with stakeholders, whereas all law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and departments were vigilant. The coastal areas of Ketri Bundar, Thatta, and Badin would definitely face cyclone landfall. The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) and Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) offices were coordinating with 16 other met offices for data gathering.

President directs DC I'abad to restore possession of elderly woman's plot

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has directed the deputy commissioner (DC) Islamabad to restore the possession of 10-marla property to an elderly lady, whose property had been allegedly occupied by land grabbers in Bara Kahu area.

The president upheld the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPWAH) and gave these directions while deciding upon a representation filed by Malik Abdul Majeed and others against the orders of FOSPWAH, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on

Tuesday. As per details, Munawar Bibi (complainant) had filed a complaint before FOSPWAH under the Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, 2020 saying that Malik Abdul Majeed and Jawad Shoukat (petitioners) belonged to a "Qabza Mafia" and had illegally taken possession of her plot by erecting a boundary wall around it. FOSPWAH passed the orders in her favour and directed the DC Islamabad to restore possession of the complainant.

The petitioners preferred a review petition which was rejected on the ground that it had been proved that Munawar Bibi

was the owner of the property and it was transferred in her name through the registered sale deed in 1979 and its entry had also been made in the revenue records. FOSPWAH directed the station house officer (SHO) of Bara Kahu Police Station to take steps to restore possession, take assistance from Patwari Halqa on the spot, and use all legal means in connection with the restoration of the plot to the complainant. The petitioners, then, filed a representation before the president claiming that they were the owners of the plot and the land of the complainant was entirely different from theirs.



ISLAMABAD: Former Member National Assembly Hanif Abbasi called on the Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Modi using judiciary as tool to silence political voices in IIOJK: Shabbir

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senior APHC leader and Chairman of Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party Shabbir Ahmed Shah while stating that the Modi regime is using the judiciary as a weapon to silence legitimate political voices in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir has urged the international community to take effective notice of the increasing Indian state terrorism in the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, in his message from New Delhi's notorious Tihar jail, the incarcerated DFP chief while voicing his concern over the worsening political and human rights situation in the territory said that the Indian authorities have intensi-

fied state terrorism on the Kashmiris, mainly targeting pro-freedom leaders, activists and civil society members who have been critical of the Modi regime's muscular policies. Highlighting the use of state repression in response to democratic dissent in Jammu and Kashmir, the DFP chairman said that on the one hand witch-hunt against political, social and human rights activists goes on unabated, while on the other occupation authorities have reopened cases against hundreds of political activists.

"They are being summoned to police stations now and then, harassed and humiliated and dragged to the courts, and forced to appear in courts far away from their homes", he said.



Students of the Quaid-i-Azam University School of Politics and International Relations Islamabad visiting senate museum at Parliament House, Islamabad

Islamabad Police Chief directs strict measures to curb crime

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan has directed all police officials to intensify the crackdown against anti-social elements and effectively curb crime.

A high-level meeting was convened at the Central Police Office to address the rising crime rate in the city which was presided over by the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer.

He reviewed the performance of the police stations and directed the officers to devise effective strategies for crime prevention within a strict deadline. He emphasized the need for improved performance and warned of potential replacements if expectations were not met.

In a bid to combat the escalating crime, a committee consisting of four Senior

Police Officers (SPs) has been formed under the supervision of CPO Operations. This committee will identify prevalent crimes in their respective areas and develop practical measures to control and mitigate them. Additionally, Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) and Sub-Divisional Police Officers (SDPOs) will engage in community meetings to seek suggestions from local residents, enhancing the collaborative effort to prevent crimes effectively. Islamabad police chief highlighted the importance of ensuring the presence of Station House Officers (SHOs) in their respective police stations during night hours to strengthen the security measures. Furthermore, the IGP emphasized the need to improve police stations to serve the public and en-

FGEHA launches "Law Portal" for digitalization and automation

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a significant move towards digitalization and automation, Tariq Rashid, Director General of the Federal Government Employees Housing Authority, inaugurated the "Law Portal," a web-based application portal aimed at digitizing the records of Law Wing.

This portal will provide crucial information, lawyers' comments, and relevant orders for legal proceedings, while also granting access to the panel of lawyers in the department.

These measures are expected to enhance efficiency, minimize delays in litigation, and facilitate the management of pending cases on a daily basis.

Police expedited action against traffic laws violators

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Following the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police expedited action against traffic laws violators in order to ensure smooth traffic flow and make Islamabad accidents free city.

Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanweer directed all zonal DSPs and beat inspectors to take stern action against drivers violating rules including seat belt violators, motorcyclists without helmets, lanes discipline violators and especially heavy vehicle drivers who are violating their designated route and time.

hance the capabilities of the police force. Addressing the officers, the Islamabad police chief acknowledged their efforts in maintaining peace and public order but reiterated that the responsibility would only be fulfilled with effective crime control. To achieve this, the IGP called for strict action against professional criminals and advertising offenders. Timely arrests were emphasized as a crucial aspect of maintaining credibility and enhancing performance. CPO Operations has been directed to appoint a senior officer on a daily basis to monitor the city through safe city cameras, ensuring a swift response to any potential threats. Moreover, a new division has been established to improve public convenience, resulting in an increase in the number of police stations.

Nation's future depends on teachers' performance: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday said that the future of this nation depends on the performance of teachers.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the induction training program 2023 for the newly recruited 1000 teachers here at Federal Education College.

He said that we have hired 1000 new elementary,

and secondary teachers and lecturers to meet the needs of the educational institutions of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT).

Rana said that the teachers are the backbone of the education system and stressed them to play their due role in the character building of the nation.

"It is important to provide the right training to the teachers in order to deliver their mandate," he underlined.

51k Pakistani hujjaj to travel via shuttle train service during Hajj: DG

ISLAMABAD (APP): Around 51,000 Pakistani pilgrims will have the facility to travel on board the Al-Mashaer shuttle hajj train service, while the remaining Pakistani pilgrims will opt for alternative modes of travel to Arafat.

Director General (DG) of Hajj Abdul Wahab Soomro said this while talking to APP on Tuesday.

He said, "A sufficient number of Moavineen e Hujjaj will be deployed in strategic points of Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifah to

guide Pakistani aspiring pilgrims." "Moreover, approximately 1,000 Moavineen and volunteers will be assigned to assist differently abled pilgrims during the significant days of Hajj." "This arrangement guarantees a smooth and well-organized experience for the fortunate pilgrims, while also addressing the requirements of others in need of support." In response to the question, he emphasized that an overwhelming 99 percent of the pilgrims expressed their contentment.



ISLAMABAD: A deserted view of the 7th Avenue due to the high temperature of 38°C in Federal Capital.

NIH issues advisory on Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, Naegleriasis

ISLAMABAD (Online): The National Institute of Health (NIH) has issued an advisory on the prevention and control of Crimean Congo Hemorrhagic Fever (CCHF) and Primary Amebic Meningo-encephalitis (PAM), Naegleriasis.

According to NIH, the Institute's Field Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance Division (FEDSD) issued advisories with the purpose to sensitize human and animal healthcare authorities to further strengthen and improve the level of preparedness in the prevention and control of CCHF and Naegleriasis.

In the wake of high disease transmission and risk due to anticipated increased human-animal interaction during the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha, it is imperative to be vigilant about the situation and take necessary steps to interrupt the transmission of

CCHF, it is a widespread disease caused by a tick-borne virus (Nairovirus) of the Bunyaviridae family.

Numerous wild and domestic animals, such as cattle, goats, sheep and hares are carriers of this virus. The CCHF virus is transmitted to people either by tick bites or through contact with infected animal blood or tissues during and immediately after slaughter.

Transmission to humans occurs through contact with infected ticks or animal blood. CCHF can be transmitted from an infected person to another person by contact with infectious blood, secretions, or body fluids.

According to the advisory, this year, Balochistan has reported 81 and KP reported three suspected cases, out of which 27 were positive from Balochistan including five deaths up to June 2023.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of Climate Change of Pakistan Sherry Rehman addressing press conference along with Chairman National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Lieutenant General (R) Inam Haider at Press Information Department in Federal Capital.

Shazia urges public to strictly follow PMD instructions on upcoming cyclonic storm

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PASS) Shazia Marri on Tuesday urged the public to follow instructions issued by the government of Sindh and the Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) regarding the impending cyclonic storm.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly (NA), the minister emphasized the gravity of the situation, as the province faces potential danger.

"The Sindh government has taken swift action by issuing warnings and evacuating a significant number of residents, with around 80,000 to 100,000 people already moved to safer locations," she said.

Moreover, she said, "The government officials, including the CM and members of the Provincial Assembly (MPA's) and Members of National Assembly (MNA's), are actively engaged in providing assistance to affected communities."

"While Karachi may not be directly threatened, the PMD forecasts heavy showers and windstorms in the metropolis from June 13-17."

To mitigate risks, the relevant authorities directed

the removal of billboards from roads and issued warnings to the public to prevent any potential damages.

Prayer was offered in the NA upon the minister's request, seeking safety and protection for the people in the face of this natural calamity, led by Moulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali.

Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani emphasized that various areas of the Sindh province would be impacted by the storm, urging both the Sindh and federal governments to provide comprehensive assistance to those relocated to camps.

Raja Pervaiz Ashraf informed members that the Pakistan armed forces were present in the affected areas and would provide assistance to the people.

NA body reaffirm commitment towards SDG's

ISLAMABAD (Online): SDGs Secretariat of the National Assembly of Pakistan held a Round-Table Meeting of Council of Chair (Chairpersons Standing Committees of National Assembly) in Committee Room 5, Parliament House, Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Hon. Romina Khurshid Alam, Convener National Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs. The aim of the roundtable was to integrate the global agenda 2030 into the standing committees, where they

deliberate on the incoming legislations, review expenditures and present reports in House.

SDGs are a global framework for moving towards sustainable development. Pakistan has developed policies for monitoring of SDGs but for the effective implementation we need to mainstream the global agenda in all tiers. This roundtable discussed the role of parliamentary interventions and use of legislative tools in scrutinizing the incoming legislations.



ISLAMABAD: A man carrying bottles of drinking water after filling from a filtration plant at Ghouri Town.

Rs 103,375m allocated for ongoing NHA projects in PSDP 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): Keeping in view the vision of the incumbent government for the timely completion of ongoing road infrastructure projects, Rs 103,375.614 million have been allocated for 68 ongoing road infrastructure schemes of the National Highway Authority.

According to official data, Rs. 6 billion have been allocated for land acquisition, affected properties and compensation for the Rajanpur-DG Khan section of Indus Highway (N-55) as a four-lane highway and rehabilitation of 329 km D G Khan-D I Khan section of N-55. Similarly, Rs. 6 billion have been allocated for dualization and im-

provement of existing Yanik-Sagu-Zhob section of N-50 including Zhob bypass. Rs. 5.5 billion have been allocated for the dualization of the 330 km Khuzdar-Kuchlak section while Rs. 5 billion have been set aside for the construction of the Gilgit-Shandur road, and as much amount has been earmarked for the construction of the Lahore-Sialkot Motorway link via Narang Mandi to Narawal. Moreover, Rs. 5 billion have been set aside for Zhob to Kuchlak road (CPEC Western route). For dualization and improvement of Old Bannu Road Rs 531.742 million have been allocated whereas for dualization and improvement of Pindigheb-Kohat Road.



ISLAMABAD: People are donating blood in connection with World Blood Donor Day at Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), in the Federal Capital.

Court sends tiktoker jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Tuesday sent Tiktoker Sandal Khattak to Central Jail Adial on judicial remand in a case pertaining leaking the objectionable pictures of Tiktoker Hareem Shah.

Senior Civil Judge Bashir Bhatti heard the case wherein the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) produced Sandal Khattak and prayed for her further five days physical remand for more investigation.

However, the defence lawyer opposed the request and said that there was no need of further physical remand.

IRSA releases 205,500 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Tuesday released 205,500 cusecs of water from various rim stations with an inflow of 287,700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, the water level in River Indus at Tarbela Dam was 1438.70 feet and was 40.70 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. The water inflow and outflow in the dam was recorded as 128,000 cusecs and 65,000 cusecs, respectively.

The water level in River Jhelum at Mangla Dam was 1139.30 feet, which was 89.30 feet higher than its dead level of 1,050 feet.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Wednesday June 14, 2023

Looking east

The PDM coalition may have failed to set a direction for the flailing economy in its rather unimaginative second budget, but trade and industry leaders have been quite clear about how they believe Pakistan can chart a way out of its present crisis.

They have been pointing out some common-sense measures that successive governments have failed to implement, which include steps like fixing the country's justice system, improving education delivery, reforming the bureaucracy, enforcing contracts, rightsizing the bloated machinery of the state, and forcing it to divest from businesses that have become a burden on the public exchequer.

The right interventions in these areas, most experts agree, can help create more wealth for both the citizenry and the government. Unfortunately, as the past year has shown, the country's managers have seemed clueless about where to begin despite finding themselves in the midst of a major crisis.

The chairman of one of the largest conglomerates in the country, in a recent interview to Dawn, pointed to India as a case study. New Delhi implemented tough reforms following its last IMF programme some three decades ago, and is now reaping the rewards for its labours. He also echoed what many have been urging for a while now — that the revitalisation of trade with India, along with other regional economies, is a prerequisite to Pakistan's long-term economic stability.

Unfortunately, Pakistan seems to have shut itself off to importing both good ideas or cheap goods from its eastern neighbour. Urging the government to reconsider, many have reasoned that when other countries with historical rivalries do not refuse to engage economically with each other, why should Pakistan and India? It is difficult to disagree.

Indeed, if one were to thoroughly account for the costs and benefits of Islamabad's decision to suspend trade with India, the bottom line would reflect a net loss for our people. Perhaps it is time for our foreign policy pundits and decision-makers to reconsider their stance and decouple trade from geopolitical disputes.

From food to pharmaceuticals, Pakistan can import much from India and at far cheaper rates than from anywhere else in the world. Yet, we refuse to do so. With inflation crushing our citizens, the question 'why' must be revisited.

The state can keep pursuing its principled differences with New Delhi even while the two countries trade. It did so, for most of the two countries' history.

Meanwhile, goods that can be bought for cheaper than the options available in the market should be allowed in so that the inflationary pressure can be relieved. Trade and geopolitics should be treated as independent components of international policy. Politicking on the matter is selfish and does no service to our people. Both our state and our politicians need to agree on this.



Arifa Noor

The PTI juggernaut may have been brought to a stop but politics in Punjab hasn't. It goes on at full throttle, with Asif Ali Zardari busy meeting electables in the province who are heading for the PPP after a long time. The PML-Q is also welcoming a few into its fold. But the biggest news of the week was the launch of yet another new party full of old, familiar faces, who had once walked the halls of Banigala. From those who had left earlier, such as Jahangir Khan Tareen (JKT) and Aleem Khan, to those who retired recently from politics, they were all there.

The launch was grand and was covered extensively but the reaction was, if we allow for a little bit of slang ... meh.

This perhaps was less due to the politicians collected there than our collective experience, lived and remembered. As many people keep pointing out, the script is now so old that everyone knows how it turns out — it's the butler, who did it. And everyone and their khala knows it.

Having seen it happen with the Jatoi-led National People's Party and the Chaudhry-led PML-Q and even the PPP-Patriots, who does not know that these 'marriages' of convenience work only for a short while? Eventually though, politicians have to return to the political parties once their non-political friends step back, for some reason or the other. In the meantime, there may have been cabinet posts and protocol but the years in the wilderness can be longer and the future uncertain for long. (Ask the Chaudhries.)

Going back is never easy; not only is the leadership wary, so is the general public, and the media is harsh. In addition, there is politics. The party vote is the consolidating factor. But there are fewer and fewer electables who can win on their own steam. The best ones need a party ticket to make it across the finish line, preferably coming from a party that has a sizeable following. The PTI, for the moment, is popular in Punjab and has this vote bank but it comes with the leader and his endorsement; it is not there for those who have moved on.

These are the reasons why it wasn't easy to take the PTI apart until it became obvious how final the decision was. The politicians had known how close electoral victory was with the party ticket. Even then it took pressure. Perhaps this is why the unhappiness was hard to miss on the day of the launch of the new party: those leaving the PTI are doing so for the wilderness; there is no 'king' around who is going to ensure their victory. For, the king needs to be there, to be seen, and to rule, with his hand of merry men. Invisible men don't really cut it, unless of course there is a plan to throw off the invisibility cloak which we are yet to be told about.

But moving on to the larger picture, what does this new party tell us about the days to come? One, that unlike the past three elections, it is still not clear who is the lucky man about to be crowned. In 2008, 2013 and 2018, we all knew on whose head the humus was about to land. This time, we don't even know if the bird is circling above or not. JKT and his non-electables are best placed to strike a psychological blow or may just play spoiler. The PPP is said to be the blue-eyed party this time but its chances in Punjab still look dicey; it will probably need just a little less help than the Istehkam-i-Pakistan Party (IPP).

But more interesting was the reaction of the PML-N. Khawaja Asif and others were quick to say that the PML-N shared a good relationship with JKT and the two parties could carry out some seat adjustment. The last time the PML-N went in for such an arrangement was in 2008. Is this an admission that the party is already prepared for a similar out-

come, i.e. a hung parliament this time and is looking around for allies?

It has long been said that those on whose behalf the IPP, the PPP, and even the PML-Q, are suddenly active don't want PTI to win but they also don't want the PML-N to win too big, which it might if PTI is forcibly removed from the electoral arena. After all, 1997 is not that long ago. The PML-N is aware of this; in fact, there are many who are wondering why the party is not worried. Khawaja Asif's statement shows the party is perhaps trying to conserve some political space by offering seat adjustments to the JKT group before others do.

But even then, the alliance will not be easy to pull off. Consider that Lodhran, where JKT contests from, is the stronghold of a PML-N cabinet minister and his group. The adjustments might not be all that easy to make.

All this points towards another, previously highlighted, possibility: the aim to create a

hung parliament, and a coalition government to take things forward. But some are cautious and say this will happen only if the results from successful manipulation are evident in the crystal ball. If not, then there are no guarantees this season will give way to a new one.

Sounds like a plan. But — and there's always a 'but' — this plan doesn't really account for what will happen to the economy if there is no election. (Not that an election and a hung parliament bring much assurance regarding the economy.) However, the uncertainty around the political set-up will further delay everything on the economic front; even if people are certain the entire edifice can be held up — without or without a legal cover — there are chances this support will be there for a year or so. Either way, the roller coaster ride of Pakistani politics is set to continue and the only istehkam (stability) to be seen is in the name of the newly launched party. -- Courtesy Dawn

Destination unknown

Why the country fails



Foqia Sadiq Khan

It is apparent now that Project Imran Khan/PTI is being dismantled. Some commentators wonder whether the PTI was ever a political party. Others use the past tense for the PTI. Whether or not the PTI survives this phase or continues to wither away, it is certain that Project Imran Khan was only a manifestation. Former finance minister Miftah Ismail says Pakistan is the worst governed country. The World Bank states Pakistan's human development indicators are truly dismal, at the level of Sub-Saharan Africa and below the South Asian average. All of these are manifestations. The root cause, as I have said many times in these pages over the years, is the intra-elite tussle between the country's political and non-political elite from end

1988 till recently. It has led to the logjam of governance.

In 1990, per-capita GDPs for India and Pakistan were almost identical: a little under \$370 per person. By 2021, India's per capita GDP was \$2,277, approximately 50 per cent higher than Pakistan's. This is around the same time in Pakistan when there was a return to democracy from late 1988 onwards after a long brutal dictatorship. Hence ensued the intra-elite tussle between the country's political and non-political elite.

There were serious efforts to wipe the old political elite off the face of governing the country, and the PTI was only the latest instrument to achieve it. By contrast, there was no such existential tussle in India. Therefore, India prospered and Pakistan continued to regress as the non-political elite dominated but it could not entirely finish off the old political elite. Games of maneuvering and out-maneuvering kept on being played by both sides. There were short time-horizons when the political elite ruled. Hence, we have supposedly the worst governed country with depressing human develop-

ment indicators.

In the article 'Budget priorities for 2023-24' (June 12), Dr Hafiz Pasha has written that the tax gap in Pakistan is equivalent to 3.0 per cent of the GDP — Rs2,500 billion. Much of this is in the form of the missing provincial taxes. Agricultural income tax comes first in this regard. Even if levied at half the urban income tax level it can fetch the government Rs320 billion. At present it only contributes Rs4 billion to the tax stream at the provincial level. The provincial boards of revenue need to upwardly adjust agricultural income.

Another area of 'untapped' taxation is 'the taxation of properties and property developers in the form of the urban immovable property tax, income tax on rental income, capital gains tax on property transactions and capital value tax on properties,' according to Dr Pasha. At present, these taxes yield only Rs48 billion, while their true revenue potential is Rs520 billion.

The wholesale and retail trade sector is the third area that is under-taxed. Its tax yield is only Rs32 billion presently and it can go

up to Rs270 billion by 'expanding the coverage of the withholding tax on electricity bills and enhancing the fixed tax rates.' Progressive taxation can increase tax revenues by 12 per cent by adding the additional almost Rs1,000 billion to it.

There is a similar story with state-owned enterprises (SOEs) that have been hemorrhaging the economy for decades. Pakistan has given a subsidy of roughly Rs1,500 billion to SOEs this year. According to a World Bank report of 2021, Pakistan has spent in the range of 8-12 per cent of its GDP on subsidizing SOEs in recent years. Why can't Pakistan privatize or close down the loss-making monumental SOEs?

There is a governance logjam in the country due to the tussle between the political and non-political elite. There was an effort to privatize Pakistan Steel Mills in the past that was duly aborted due to the excessive intervention of the judiciary in the economic matters of the country in the past.

The federal government is bloated. Both Dr Shahid Kardar and Dr Hafiz Pasha have pointed towards it. There are 35 ministries

and hundreds of autonomous bodies and attached departments. Much of it should have been devolved to the provinces post the 18th Amendment, but this has not been the case. Why? This is due to a logjam of governance. The power sector's circular debt has reached Rs2.67 trillion. It has been ballooning over the decades. Some governments in the past reduced it to some extent, but it catches up again and again.

Why has this problem not been resolved? Due to a logjam of governance.

It is not that some of the recent finance ministers such as Ishaq Dar, Miftah Ismail, Shaukat Tarin, and Hafeez Shaikh or the provincial finance ministers and the chief ministers cannot grasp these realities or implement them. All of them understand these points pretty well. The real reason why these progressive taxation measures are not implemented are the political economy considerations.

With short time-horizons and with the fear of being extinguished from politics, the political elite does not want to take these measures as they entail political cost and would make

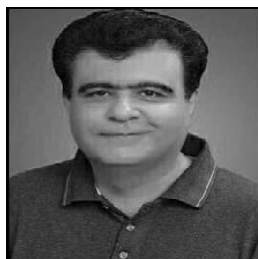
the political governments unpopular.

According to the World Bank's recent report, Pakistan's Human Capital Index (HCI) measuring human development in the country is 0.41, while the South Asian average is 0.48. Bangladesh's HCI is 0.46 and Nepal's 0.49. Pakistan resembles Sub-Saharan Africa more in its human development (whose HCI is 0.40) than South Asia.

A child born in today's Pakistan will only be 41 per cent productive compared to if s/he were given a chance to enjoy full education and complete health. Why does Pakistan lag so far behind in human development and welfare of its citizens? A logjam of governance.

The old political guard of the PML-N and the PPP signed the Charter of Democracy in 2006 and pledged to work together and remain largely independent of the influence of the non-political elite. Project Imran Khan was conceived as a reaction to it to create a third force in the country and get rid of the old political elite that claims to refute the hegemony of the non-political elite. -- Courtesy TheNews

Aborting democracy



Dr Niaz Murtaza

We have failed to democratise since 1947 thanks mainly to the security establishment as well as all major political parties. True, we are no North Korea — small buds of democracy do sometimes bloom in a desert of autocracy. But a closer look reveals an odd fact: they have bloomed mainly due to the PPP and PML-N. Both have done much harm to, but also more good for, democracy than other big parties.

Politics emerges societal realities. Ours is a patronage-driven politics, with clans and tribes running social, economic and political processes. There is no escaping societal realities till they change slowly. The corrupt, dynastic politics of the PPP and PML-N emerges from this reality. More oddly, non-dynastic parties — BJP, JVP (Sri Lanka), MQM, TLP, Jamaat-Islami and PTI — are worse on violence, bigotry and populism indicators. Even dynasties within them are replaced with cronyism, not merit.

The PTI possesses the sleaze of the PPP and PML-N, plus cultist hero worship that aims to replace laws and institutions with Khan's fiat; the social extremism and xenophobia (towards the West) of religious parties; TLP- and MQM-type violence; and one-party autocracy goals. Besides it has spread falsehoods via social media as a strategy to silence the truth. So, Khan is a danger both as a ruler and opposition leader. But the party should have been nixed politically.

Unlike the 1990s, the PPP and PML-N deepened democracy in key areas from 2008 to 2018: devolution (18th Amendment), smooth transfer of power (electoral reforms and the 2013 elections), Fata reforms, etc. These gains came to naught when the establishment allegedly rigged the 2018 polls for the PTI. The justifiable no-trust move against the then prime minister in 2022 raised hope that the PDM alliance would relaunch its 2008-2018 agenda. Instead, they have adopted the PTI's autocratic ways, imperilled free polls and put the establishment back into a pole position.

The Punjab polls mess is a reflection of the controversial verdicts of the Supreme Court and the Election Commission on Article 63-A of the Constitution and the de-seating of 25 PTI dissidents. But there is no excuse for the KP polls and abuses against the pro-PTI media. May 9's horrific but limited street violence has been used as an excuse to reverse-engineer and nix the PTI. Most of those involved deserve fines, community service or home lockups, as done after a mob attacked the US Capitol, which is considered more sacrosanct than the palatial home of a commander.

Only those carrying out arson and serious assaults deserve jail. Trying them in non-civilian courts for inciting mutiny has been criticised. Mutiny is open rebellion against an authority. The Potemkin Mutiny during the Russo-Japanese War was over bad food. The 700-strong crew killed nearly half the ship's officers. In Germany's Kiel mutiny in 1919, thousands of sailors occupied ships and seized control of the city. On May 9, we only had brief aimless mayhem by largely unarmed mobs led astray by fake rhetoric. It soon dispersed.

One can't speak of the death of democracy as it is as yet unborn in Pakistan let alone grown to adulthood. We had a fetus in a womb parented by the PPP and PML-N who have aborted even that. When these two parties can crush the tiny seeds their hands had planted, one loses hope for democracy in Pakistan. If both adopt the PTI's autocratic ways, they will get two new PTIs. One can only say sadly: "Et tu, Brute?" Will we have another tryst with democracy any time soon?

These events reflect the weak basis of the PTI, engineered by the establishment around Khan's empty populism. The PPP survived six much longer crackdowns: 1968-1969, 1977-1988, 1990-1993, 1997-1999 and 1999-2008; the PML-N three (1993-1996, 1999-2008 and 2018-2022). But the PTI collapsed a few weeks after facing its first crackdown, even if it was the most intense one by a civilian set-up in recent years. Khan cuts a lonely figure today in Zaman Park, like Bahadur Shah in Delhi Fort.

The PPP and PML-N emerged from the societal realities of the poor and the traders whose lives depend heavily on politics. These groups join the PPP-PML-N patronage networks that sap their ire. The PTI emerged from the vacuum of the upper middle class for whom politics is a social media pastime. Their elite lives are less affected by misrule as they use private fixes for public problems like crime and power cuts, instead of joining political struggles to fix them. Their ire thus sapped, neither class joins political struggles. We must go beyond such patronage and social media political fixes. The way forward is a progressive leftist political struggle to birth a better democracy. - Courtesy Dawn

Missing resilience



Masood Lohar

Karachi's history of natural disasters remains obscured, just like its original topographical contours. As the cyclone Biparjoy, meaning 'disaster' in Bangla, sets its sights on this city of over 200 million, ordinary Karachiites find solace in the common refrain: 'Abdullah Shah Ghazi won't let disaster befall us.' However, it appears that they have forgotten that cyclones have indeed struck Karachi multiple times throughout history.

One such cyclone in 1944 rendered 10,000 people homeless when the city's population was less than half a million. Back then, Karachi's marine ecosystem was still intact, with two key lagoons, Obhayo and Nai Nar, as well as two creeks, Korangi and Gizri, existing alongside their sub-creeks. Karachi faced two other significant cyclones in 1902 and 1964. Given the severe degradation of the city's marine ecosystem today, one must question the disaster preparedness incorporated in its urban planning.

Regrettably, the transformation of Karachi's landscape has left little room for disaster resilience. Gizri Creek, once a thriving ecosystem, is now a housing settlement, leaving Korangi Creek as the sole remaining waterway. The largest lagoon, Obhayo, has been reduced to a polluted black water pond called Boat Basin, surrounded by housing settlements such as Hijrat and Shireen Jinnah Colony. The Mai Kolachi Bridge severed the remain-

ing lagoon from the open sea, disrupting a critical function of the marine ecosystem. Similarly, the disconnection of another significant lagoon, Nai Naar, at Sandspit in the 1950s halted the natural high tide-low tide cycle that previously cleansed the Keamari Harbour. Consequently, severe pollution in the area, especially in and around the fish harbour, led to a ban on fish exports to the EU.

Karachi typically experiences average annual rainfall of less than 175 mm. However, recent occurrences have showcased extraordinary variations in precipitation. In August 2020, Karachi witnessed a significant downpour, with rainfall recorded at 223.5 mm. Similarly, the previous year saw a remarkable 1050 mm of rainfall in Bahria Town.

Unfortunately, each year, the regular monsoon rains wreak havoc on the city, leading to substantial damage. In comparison to other coastal cities in Asia, Karachi's average rainfall is considerably lower. For instance, Goa and Mumbai receive an average of 3000 mm and 2200 mm respectively, while Jakarta receives over 1800 mm. It is noteworthy that despite the higher rainfall in these cities, they continue to function normally without municipal emergencies, unlike Karachi, where even a downpour of less than 200 mm can trigger such situations.

If Karachi were to face a severe cyclone or experience unusual rainfall, the consequences could be devastating. The once-efficient backwater absorbing capacity of Obhayo lagoon and Gizri Creek has been lost, while the blocked waterways of the Lyari and Malir rivers threaten further harm to the city's infrastructure and its inhabitants.

The 2001 earthquake in Gujarat, India, serves as a grim reminder of the po-

tential devastation that can occur along the Allah Band seismic fault. Throughout history, the coastal region of Sindh and Gujarat, India, has experienced a series of major and minor earthquakes along this fault line. One significant earthquake, in the eighth century, had its epicentre near Jungshahi and resulted in the destruction and submergence of Debal port. Similarly, the 1668 earthquake, as reported by Euro-pean travellers, devastated 'Aurang Port' or 'Samawani' submerging 30,000 houses and claiming 50,000 to 150,000 lives. Another earthquake in 1819 wreaked havoc on Sindhri Port, located near the Pakistan-India border south of Badin. Further, the last recorded tsunami in 1945, with a British newspaper estimating 4,000 casualties along the Makran Coast.

Karachi has undergone an exponential population increase, from 4m in 1980 to 10m in 2000, leading to haphazard expansion and the proliferation of poorly constructed concrete structures. Urgent action is needed to develop disaster risk reduction strategies and implement bold measures to enhance the city's resilience against disasters and climate change. Central to achieving this goal is the restoration of Karachi's marine ecosystem. Failure to do so not only jeopardises Pakistan's commercial capital but also endangers the lives of over 10pc of the country's population.

In addition to its vulnerability to natural disasters, Karachi faces a significant concern in the form of air pollution. Industrial activities, vehicular emissions, and a lack of vegetation contribute to the city's heavily polluted air. The absence of trees further exacerbates the risk of heat-related illnesses. -- Courtesy Dawn

37,755 people shifted to safe places, CM briefed

Directs Commissioner Karachi to remove billboards

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah was briefed by the Commissioners about the latest situation pertaining to 'Cyclone Biparjoy' and measures in this regard here on Tuesday.

Commissioner Karachi said that the estimated population to be affected during Cyclone is around 40,000 and the suspected population to be shifted to Rescue points is around 5000 to 10,000.

Three buildings of educational institutions-Government Primary School, Lath Basti, Degree College Cattle Colony, and Tsunami Center Lath Basti have been designated as relief camps.

TFC School Rehri, Govt Hospital Rehri, Primary school Rehri, Wagoo Da, Tsunami Centre Rehri, would be relief camps.

Relief Camps have been set up at tsunami center Ali Mohammad

Khaskheli Goth, Tsunami Center Jatt Para, Primary school Wagoo Darr-II, Secondary School Ali Mohammad Khaskheli village.

Tsunami Center Ibrahim Hyderi, Girls Degree College, Football Ground, and Ibrahim Hyderi Primary School.

The CM was told that the shifting of the people have been started.

Commissioner Hyderabad has informed the chief minister that the total vulnerable population of Thatta, Sujawal, and Badin is 85,022, of which 24105 have been evacuated.

The evacuation process is in progress and by the late evening another 13,650 would be shifted to safe places. The total evacuation would come to 37,755 by Tuesday night.

According to details, Out of the 13,000 vulnerable population of Keti Bandar 6000 have been shifted to seven relief camps.

The vulnerable population of Gora Bari is around 5000, of them 2000 have been evacuated and housed at three camps.

Sujawal has 36,560 vulnerable population of them 2578 have been shifted to 10 camps. Jati has 9027 people prone to the storm, of them 3027 have been evacuated and settled at four camps. Similarly, out of the 7936 vulnerable population of Kharochan, 3000 have been shifted.

Shaheed Fazel Rahu has 11000 vulnerable population of them 6500 have been shifted to eight camps. Out of the 2500 vulnerable population of Badin taluka, 1000 have been shifted.

Commissioner Karachi Iqbal Memon briefing the chief minister said that the severe cyclonic storm (BIPARJOY) over the Northeast Arabian Sea has further moved northwestward.



GILGIT: Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Khalid Khurshid Khan chairing a cabinet meeting at CM Secretariat.

Governor KP highlights significance of research for making progress in 21st century

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Haji Ghulam Ali Tuesday highlighted the significance of research to make progress in the 21st century and said that research should be target oriented and benefit each and every tier of society.

He was talking to senior professors of colleges who were given training at the Higher Education Academy for Research and Training (HEART)

Kohat. Caretaker Minister for Higher Education, Irshad Qaisar, Director HEART, and Tasbeehullah were present on the occasion.

Academy Director informed the governor about the objectives of the academy and said that it has been established for professors to complete a four-month course that is mandatory for their promotion.

He told that the academy is facing many problems including the unavailability of a budget and training has been conducted on a self-help basis.

Speaking on the occasion, KP Governor assured his cooperation and said that the matter would be discussed with the finance department and Planning and Development Department.

He said that teachers have always played a very prominent role in the construction and development of a society stressing upon them to focus on character and capacity building of the young generation. He also advised teachers to inculcate norms of mutual respect, coexistence, and tolerance among youth keeping in view the growing trends of extreme elements in the society.



MULIAN: Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Discount World Sultan Richard and Project Sekt of Romanza Golf and Country Club Col. Habib-ur-Rahman, signed the memorandum of understanding at DHA.

Minister inaugurates burns, plastic surgery unit at Mufti Mehmood Hospital

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Security, Faisal Karim Kundi here on Tuesday inaugurated the burns and plastic surgery unit at Mufti Mehmood Hospital, Dera Ismail Khan. Former Member Provincial Assembly, Ahmad Karim Kundi, Dean's Gomal Medical College, Dr Nasim Saba Mehsud, Director of the hospital Dr Umar Shah Astrana, hospital director medical, Dr Muhammad Wasim, doctors, paramedics and elites of the city attended.

In his address at the symposium at Gomal Medical College DI Khan in connection with the inauguration of the unit,

Faisal Kundi said that it was his desire to equip all hospitals of DI Khan with state-of-the-art facilities so that patients could not go for treatment to other cities including Islamabad, Multan or Lahore.

He said the burns and plastic surgery units at Mufti Mehmood Hospital DI Khan were set up by the doctors on a self-help basis and highly praised philanthropist Hidayatullah Khan Kundi for providing Rs 8 million for the purchase of equipment for the said unit that helped its operationalization. He said federal and provincial governments would ensure every possible assistance to the people of Dera Ismail Khan.

Rescue-1122 starts mock exercise, trainings for monsoon: DG

PESHAWAR (APP): The emergency service Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Rescue-1122 has started preparations, mock exercises and training programmes for line departments for monsoon emergencies.

Director General Rescue-1122 Dr Khateer Ahmed said here Tuesday that currently staff of 1122 was engaged in mock exercises to deal with the possible flood situation in monsoon.

He said that 1122 is also providing training to security agencies, civil defense, schools and colleges and local people within the available resources across the province regarding emergencies situations, adding that Rescue staff conducted 1834 medical aid sessions in the last one month, 930 training sessions for Civil Defense personnel about rowing boats in rivers and canals.

Similarly, 7781 people were given free basic medical aid teaching and practical training, he added.

USKT pays tribute to the martyrs of Pak-Army

SIALKOT (APP): University of Sialkot (USKT) paid tribute to a heartfelt tribute to the martyrs of Pakistan Army at the Martyrs' Memorial, Sialkot Garrison here on Tuesday. Chairman USKT Faisal Manzoor, Executive Director/Vice Chancellor USKT Muhammad Rehan Younas, Registrar USKT Muhammad Yaqoob, joined faculty and students in a solemn ceremony. The esteemed representatives of the university presented a wreath as a symbol of respect and gratitude to the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the defense and security of Pakistan. Chairman USKT Faisal Manzoor expressed deep admiration for the sacrifices made by the martyrs and their families, stating, "We owe an immeasurable debt of gratitude to our courageous martyrs who laid down their lives to safeguard our nation's freedom and sovereignty. Today, as representatives of the University of Sialkot, we stand united in paying our respects and acknowledging their invaluable contributions," he added.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah being briefed by official arrangements of relief operation after a warning issued by meteorology department regarding a tropical extremely severe cyclone storm named Biparjoy, during inspection visit coastal areas, at Rehri Goth area.

CM Punjab says: Nishtar-II to be made fully operative by Sept this year

Independent Report
MULTAN: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister, Mohsin Naqvi announced on Tuesday that Nishtar-II would be made operative by Sept with 100 per cent staff this year and termed it a dire need of the hour for masses of Multan and its adjoining areas.

Talking to the media after inspecting different sections of the project, he stated that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif would be invited to open the health facility as he had performed its groundbreaking ceremony too as CM Punjab.

He informed no staff would be deputed at Nishtar-II from Nishtar Hospital, adding that Punjab government would allocate funds in the budget for ongoing health projects of Multan.

The CM maintained that the Extension of Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi Institute of Cardiology would also be made functional by next month and added that a new emergency Children Complex would be constructed with the help of philanthropists soon.

Earlier, Naqvi went to different sections of the

under-construction health facility including OPD, Pharmacy, Laboratory and Ultrasound. Project Director IDAP, briefed the CM about the Nishtar-II project. Provincial ministers Amir Meer, Azfar Nasir, ACS South Punjab, Saqib Zafar, NMU VC, Dr Rana Altaf Ahmad, Commissioner Multan Division, Aamir Khattak, RPO, Sohail Chaudhary and other officials were accompanying the CM. Later, he inspected the CPEIC extension of the Emergency block beside other departments of the hospital.

Kundi inaugurates 'Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit'

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday inaugurated a 'Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit' here at Mufti Mahmood Hospital.

On this occasion, former MPA Ahmed Karim Kundi, Dean Gomal Medical College Dr. Naseem Saba Mehsud, Director Mufti Mahmood Hospital Dr. Umar Shah Ustrana, Medical Director Dr. Muhammad Waseem, renowned social worker Shaker Khan Kundi, Director DHQ hospital Dr. Farrukh Jameel and

others were also present.

Addressing a symposium held at Gomal Medical College regarding the opening ceremony of the Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit, the state minister said that it was his desire to ensure provision of all facilities to the hospitals of Dera Ismail Khan so that any patient should not be referred to go to Islamabad, Multan or any other big city from here.

He said the professional skills of doctors in Dera Ismail Khan were beyond any doubt, but the lack of facilities was a hindrance to their expertise.



SIALKOT: Dr. Nasir Jamal, Caretaker Provincial Health Minister is visiting Allama Iqbal Teaching Hospital.

KP Minister directs WSSCA to address issues

ABBOTTABAD (Online): KP Minister Local Government and Rural Development, Sanwal Nazeer Advocate Tuesday while appreciating the performance of Water and Sanitation Services Company Abbottabad (WSSCA), directed to address the prevailing issues and visited the office also.

He expressed these views during his visit to WSSC Abbottabad. Chairman of the Board of Directors, Major @ Zulfiqar Ahmed, and Chief Executive Officer Engineer Rehan Yousuf welcomed him at the office.

According to the information, the Minister of Local Government, Sanwal Nazeer Advocate during his visit to the WSSCA introduced him to the officers and board members and mentioned that the Board is fully functional and is committed to providing municipal

services to the city's citizens through people-friendly policies.

The Chief Executive Officer WSSC Engineer Rehan Yousuf also briefed the Minister about the performance of the department, future planning and ongoing challenges.

The CEO of WSSCA informed the Minister that the company's revenue has increased from 14 million to 84 million and by improving the municipal services fulfilled the challenge of waste collection and increased it from 45% to 100%.

Chief Financial Officer Tania Jadoon briefed the Minister of Local Government about the budget and expenditures for the year 2022-23.

The Minister of Local Government, On this occasion, Board Members of the Board of Directors, Zulfiqar Ahmed Sadozai.



ABBOTTABAD: Rescue 1122 officials are busy rescue operation after traffic accident due to over speeding, located on Galyat area in Abbottabad.

KMC completes Pak-China Friendship Park: Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the relationship between China and Pakistan is very strong and to further strengthen friendship, Karachi Metropolitan Corporation has completed the Pak-China Friendship Park.

He expressed these views while addressing the opening ceremony of Pakistan China Friendship Park on Kashmir Road here on Tuesday.

He said that we have to deal with the cyclone situation bravely; the governor's house is delivering a month's ration to the people living in the coastal areas to help them.

On this occasion, Administrator Karachi Dr. Syed Saifur Rahman, Consul General of the People's Republic of China Zheng Heo, Ivory Coast, Indonesia, Consul General of Oman, Iran, Malaysia, Russia, and Municipal Commissioner Syed Shujaat Hussain were present on this occasion.

Besides Director General Parks Junaidullah Khan, Senior Director Information and Printing and Media Management

Ali Hassan Sajid and other officers were also present. Earlier, Governor Sindh along with Administrator Karachi and Consul General of China inaugurated Pakistan China Friendship Park, and a large number of citizens were also present on this occasion.

Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori said that friendship is only strengthened when it is repeated time and time again. The encroachment mafia had a strong grip on the place where the park is built. KMC vacated it with tireless efforts and completed the park in a very short period of time. He congratulated KMC for this achievement.

He said that this park is a manifestation of our long-standing and warm friendship with the People's Republic of China, the foundation stone of this park was laid on the occasion of Chinese New Year and on behalf of the citizens of Karachi, we sent a message to the citizens of China that we want to maintain a relationship of love and friendship with them.



KARACHI: Sindh Government Spokesperson, Barrister Murtaza Wahab addresses to media persons during press conference, at Sindh Assembly building in Karachi.

LHC suspends sessions court order about Parvez Elahi's physical remand

LAHORE (APP): At least 16 people were killed while 1,277 injured in 1,168 road accidents in Punjab during last 24 hours.

Of whom, 661 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 606 victims with minor injuries were treated on the spot by rescue medical teams, said a spokesman for Rescue 1122 here on Tuesday.

Analysis showed that 614 drivers, 33 underage drivers, 191 pedestrians, and 478 passengers were among the victims of road accidents.

Statistics showed that 260 accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 314 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 103 in Multan with 103 victims and at third Faisalabad with 77 accidents and 82 victims.

As many as, 1029 motorcycles, 75 rickshaws, 96 cars, 25 vans, nine buses, 37 trucks and 96 other vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

LAHORE (Online): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday suspended an order of sessions court about physical remand of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi in a case related to illegal recruitment in the Punjab Assembly.

Justice Muhammad Waheed Khan passed the orders while hearing a petition filed by Chaudhry Parvez Elahi challenging the order of sessions court. The court also issued notices to the respondents, including Anti-Corruption Establishments (ACE) Punjab, and sought reply by June 27.

The petitioner's counsel had argued before the court that the order of the sessions court was liable to be set aside for being illegal and without jurisdiction. He argued that only the anti-corruption court could hear

the matter. A day earlier, a sessions court had set aside an order of a district court for sending Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to jail on judicial remand in the case. The court ordered for production of Chaudhry Parvez Elahi before the area magistrate concerned on Tuesday (June 13) for obtaining his physical remand for investigations of the case, while allowing a revision appeal filed by the ACE Punjab.

Meanwhile, in compliance with the sessions' court order, Chaudhry Parvez Elahi was also produced before Judicial Magistrate Ghulam Murtaza Virk for obtaining his physical remand. However, the court sent Chaudhry Parvez Elahi to jail on judicial remand again.



THATTA: People are shifting to safe destination from the expected Cyclone hit areas of Keti Bandar.

Two killed, six injured in road accidents

FAISALABAD (APP): Two persons were killed, while six others sustained multiple injuries in two separate road accidents in Faisalabad on Tuesday morning. Rescue 1122 spokesman said that a speeding bus collided with a tractor-trolley near Gobind pura stop on Satiana Bungalow Road. Consequently, Anwar Haidar (45) r/o Depalpur, Okara received serious injuries and died on the spot whereas Rescue 1122 teams shifted six injured to hospital. Among them included- Zubair (28), Saeed (55), Yaseen (22), Mushtaq (40), Aafiya Bibi (40) and Tahir (54). Meanwhile, a collision between tractor and truck near Aziz Flour Mill, Aminpur bypass claimed life.

Minister says: Governance system improved in province

SIALKOT (APP):

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Local Government and Community Development Ibrahim Hasan Murad has said that under the supervision of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi, the governance system has been improved in the province. In the district, work was underway on projects worth 11 billion rupees with the support of the Asian Development Bank. He expressed these views while addressing a press conference at DC Office here on Tuesday. The provincial minister said that the project had been designed keeping in mind the needs, including

water supply and drainage, till 2045.

Earlier, he presided over a meeting with Deputy Commissioner Adnan Mehmood Awan in which the officers of Municipal Corporation, District Council, Punjab Intermediate Cities Investment Improvement Program (PICIP) gave a briefing. Provincial Minister Ibrahim Hasan Murad said work had been started on the new flyover project in Sialkot and 18-month project would be completed in seven to eight months. He said that timely issuance of birth, death, marriage and divorce certificates from the Union Council were the right of the citizens.

Relief for masses on cards as Russian crude oil arrived in Pakistan: Minister

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik on Tuesday said the deal struck by Pakistan with Russia for crude oil import would help the government pass on financial relief to the masses who had been bearing brunt of inflation stemmed from the previous government's flawed economic policies.

"This is the history since it is the first time that crude oil from Russia has been arrived in Pakistan," the minister said while addressing a news conference here.

He refused to divulge details of the commercial terms of the oil deal with Russia due to agreements

signed by both sides for confidentiality.

"I want to say to my political opponents that Russian oil has reached Pakistan, which will benefit the people, so at least congratulate the nation today," he said while accusing the previous government of misleading the masses on the subject.

The PTI government, in fact, did not manage to get any oil deal with Russia which was also confirmed by the Russian government's officials.

He said Pakistan had imported 100,000 tons of oil from Russia initially with plans to gradually increase the quantity over time as the country would

meet its quarterly oil requirements through the utilization of Russian oil.

He said the previous regime had made baseless claims, suggesting that the PTI government's attempt to import oil from Russia led to its alleged removal.

"If this is true then how we have imported oil from Russia successfully," he questioned.

Musadik said the government wanted good relations with all countries including Russia, America, Europe, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and China as Pakistan was not part of any group.

He said that the government intended to ink a \$10 billion contract,

before the end of its tenure, so a new oil refinery would be established in Pakistan.

The minister said that Pakistan had also received a contract from Azerbaijan, which was available to the cabinet.

"Under the contract, the Central Asian country would provide Pakistan a distressed LNG cargo monthly. The LNG price would be much lower than in the international market," he said.

The minister said that under the terms of the contract, it would be Pakistan's prerogative to accept the cargo or not, but Azerbaijan would be obligated to provide distressed cargo monthly.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting regarding matters relating to Pakistan Railways.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum musadik malik addressing during post budget challenges Macroeconomic Indicators and Way Forward for Pakistan at ICCI.

Federal Budget 2023-24: Dar announces two anomaly committees

ISLAMABAD (Online): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday announced the formation of two 'anomaly committees' as per the tradition followed after the announcement of the federal budget.

Making an announcement on the floor of the National Assembly during the budget session, he said two notifications for constitution business-anomaly and technical-anomaly committees had been issued having the mandate to look into any anomaly(s) if mistakenly printed in the budget document or pointed out by any individual.

He said the committees, formed in consultation with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) would thoroughly deliberate on the anomaly(s), if any, and recommend the government for their removal from the document within a stipulated timeframe before passage of the budget.

The minister said the Business Anomaly Committee, comprising professionals and representatives of different trade bodies, would be headed by the President of the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI).

The FBR members Customs Policy and Inland Revenue Policy would be its co-chairpersons, he added. He said the second Technical Anomaly Committee would be headed by Chairman of Reforms and Resource Mobilization Commission (PRMC) Ashfaq Yousuf Tola and assisted by FBR members Customs Policy and Inland Revenue Policy as co-chairpersons.

Ishaq Dar said his finance team was efficiently noting all suggestions being given by the lawmakers during the budget debate, adding Minister of State for Finance and Revenue Dr Aisha Ghaus Pashas was also attending standing committees of the National Assembly and Senate.

Ayaz, OIETAI Head discuss bilateral economic cooperation to strengthen ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Deputy Minister, Head of Organization of Investment, Economic and Technical Assistant of Iran (OIETAI), Ali Fekri Tuesday discussed bilateral economic cooperation and strengthen ties between two nations. A high-level delegation from Iran led by Deputy Minister and OIETAI Head, Ali Fekri called on the Minister for Economic Affairs here, said a press release issued here.

The meeting marked an important step towards enhancing trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

During the meeting, the minister welcoming the Iranian delegation, apprised that Pakistan valued its longstanding and amicable relations with Iran and aimed to strengthen bilateral ties

fostering trade and economic prospects that would contribute to regional stability and prosperity.

Additionally, the minister highlighted that prompt execution of Agreements and MoUs reached during the 21st Session of Pak-Iran Joint Economic Commission would bolster economic cooperation and facilitate enhanced people-to-people connectivity with progress in all modes of transportation. The OIETAI head expressed Iran's keen interest in collaborating with Pakistan and shared their plans for investment in various sectors including energy projects and infrastructure development.

He acknowledged the favorable investment climate in Pakistan and the government's commitment to providing a business-friendly environment.



KARACHI: Labourers unload the discounted Russian crude oil from the tanker of the cargo ship transporting the first shipment, at Karachi Port Trust.

Progress on food system transformation reviewed

ISLAMABAD (INP): In order to strengthen efforts to improve access to nutritious food and follow global targets set for 2030, Ministry of National Food Security & Research convened national consultation for progress review on 'Pakistan National Food System Transformation Pathway'.

The event titled "Aligning National Practices and Policies for Transforming Pakistan Food Systems", was conducted as the result of the government's high level of political ownership for the upcoming United Nations (UN) Food System Summit+2-2023, said a press release issued here on Tuesday.

National Convenor for Pakistan and Federal Secretary, Ministry of National Food Security and Research Zaffar Hasan Chairman Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) Dr Ghulam Muhammad Ali, Joint Secretary Ejaz Ahmed Bajwa, and Additional Secretary Chaudhary @ Muhammad Asif also attended the

meeting.

Dr Ghulam Sadiq Afridi, member Social Sciences Division PARC, and Faiz Rasool, Senior Policy Advisor at Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) led the technical discussion and shared the progress made so far by the government.

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN) in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP), and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) provided technical assistance for the progress review process of food system transformation in Pakistan.

Provincial leadership highlighted the overall progress made, challenges being faced (particularly the climate change implications), stakeholder engagement, and the strategic investment allocated towards transforming the Pakistan food systems. Poor diets contribute to one in five deaths, and environmental issues including greenhouse gas emissions.



ISLAMABAD: A High-Level delegation from Iran led by H.E. Ali Fekri, Deputy Minister and Head of OIETAI calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

Senate body on Finance concludes deliberation on Finance Bill 2023-24

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, chaired by Senator Saleem Mandviwalla, successfully concluded its deliberation on the Finance Bill, 2023-24. During the committee meeting, thorough discussions were held to review the Sales Tax Provisions of the Finance Bill, 2023-24, with a clause-wise examination of the bill.

The committee carefully evaluated each section of the bill and made several recommendations/decision. Certain sections were accepted, some were rejected, and a few were put on hold for further clarification.

Notably, all sections falling under the ambit of 99D were deferred to allow

for additional clarification.

The committee accepted the inclusion of Section 113, which pertains to minimum tax on the income of certain individuals. Additionally, Section 146-D, concerning the recovery of outstanding liabilities under other laws, and Section 152, which allows for applications of exemption certificates related to payments to non-residents, were also accepted. To encourage exports, the committee approved the proposal in Section 154, which treats sales made to Direct Exporters under the Export Facilitation Scheme, 2021, as indirect exports subject to a reduced tax rate of 1%, as opposed to the higher rate of 4.5% under Section 153(1)(a).

NEPRA hold Webinar on "Work Permit"

ISLAMABAD (Online): Work permit plays an important role in prevention of electrical accidents. Most of the electrocutions occurred due to either ineffective work permits or the will to follow it religiously. It has observed that the deficiencies in the existing work permit system of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) are leading to frequent accidents, so National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) has developed a Work Permit Form in Urdu language to ensure the workers' safety in the field. To ensure that the DISCOs follow it religiously, various training and

informative sessions are arranged from time to time under NEPRA's Drive "Power with Safety". As part of the same, a webinar on "Work Permit" was held today at NEPRA Headquarters led and addressed by Chairman NEPRA, Mr. Tauseef H. Farooqi.

Chairman NEPRA, Mr. Farooqi in his opening remarks highlighted the significance of NEPRA's drive of "Power with Safety" vis-à-vis Work Permit as an important Safety tool and stressed safety is at the forefront of his organization's priorities and, therefore, the DISCOs must strive hard in the area of safety.

PM directs upgradation of ML-1 on priority basis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday directed for the upgradation of Main Line (ML-1) of Pakistan Railways on priority basis and said that the government was working on the revival of railways on urgent basis.

The prime minister said that ML-1 was the backbone of Pakistan Railways and in the future, Pakistan would provide trade corridor facilities to the regional countries through its railways and sea-ports systems.

The prime minister chaired a meeting to review reforms in Pakistan

Railways and upgradation of ML-1. The meeting was attended by Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique and other relevant officials, PM office Media Wing said in a press release.

During the meeting, the prime minister observed that people were being facilitated through motorways, public transport, health and education initiatives, completed during the PML-N tenures.

The meeting was apprised of the ongoing

reforms and digitalization of railways. In the aftermath of last year's devastating floods, Pakistan Railways revived its operations on emergency basis whereas digitalization work was underway. Moreover, the ticketing system was completely digitalized, it was informed.

The meeting was further apprised of the upgradation project of ML-1 and particularly its various options and processes. The prime minister appreciated post-flood efforts of Pakistan Railways for the restoration of its operations.

Envoy of Pakistan to Damascus visits SCCI

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Damascus Shahid Akhtar on Wednesday visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI).

Senior Vice President SCCI Wahub Jahangir and Vice President SCCI Amir Majeed Sheikh welcomed the guest. During the meeting, issues related to the diplomatic, commercial relations and trade promotion with Damascus were discussed.

SVP SCCI Wahub Jahangir stressed for strengthening mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Damascus and said there was a huge scope for business opportunities between Pakistan and Damascus.

Chairman NEPRA says: Work permit plays vital role in prevention of electrical accidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman of National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) Tauseef H Farooqi has said that work permit plays an important role in the prevention of electrical accidents adding that most of the electrocutions occurred due to ineffective work permits.

Speaking at a webinar on "Work Permit" organized by NEPRA, he said that the deficiencies in the existing work permit system of Distribution Companies (DISCOs) were leading to frequent accidents and the regulator developed a Work Permit Form in Urdu language to

ensure the workers' safety in the field, said a press release issued here on Tuesday. The Chairman also highlighted the significance of NEPRA's drive of "Power with Safety" vis-à-vis Work Permit as an important Safety tool. He elaborated that NEPRA being the sole regulator will continue to apply and promote the best Safety practices in the industry and will continue to respond to all potential challenges so as to prevent fatal accidents and any potential risks. He reiterated that NEPRA will never compromise on safety as the death of an individual matters a lot.



ISLAMABAD: Delegation of All Pakistan Anjuman e Tajran led by Mr Mohammad Naeem Mir met Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and extended felicitations on presenting a people and business friendly Budget 2023-24 as they thanked FM on incorporating traders' suggestions in the Finance Bill for ease of doing business and removing their issues.

Australia's business conditions slump 7 points in May

SYDNEY (Xinhua/APP): Business conditions in Australia posted a sharp fall of seven points to eight points in May driven by declines in trade, employment, and profitability, according to a survey released by the National Australia Bank Ltd. (NAB) Tuesday.

The fall in conditions appears to be accelerating but still remains above the long-run average, said the survey.

All the three sub-components of the business conditions fell in May, of which trading dropped eight points to 14 points, employment down seven points to four points and profitability slid five points to seven points, it said.

Conditions in all the industries saw declines with the biggest pullback seen in transport and utilities, wholesales, and mining industries. The retail industry remained solid despite a small setback seen in May.

Mobilink Bank & Vision Building future collaborate to address financial disparities

Independent Report its financial reach by introducing innovative digital and financial solutions to underserved populations. To further

ISLAMABAD: As part of its ongoing mission to advance financial inclusion across the board, Mobilink Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vision-Building Future (VBF) to address existing disparities in the financial sphere through a range of targeted initiatives. Under its flagship program, Women Inspirational Network (WIN), Mobilink Bank is geared towards expanding

this dedication, the Bank will offer the Bint-e-Hawwa product suite to the beneficiaries of the VBF, fostering women's empowerment and facilitating their path toward financial independence. Mobilink Bank is part of the VEON group, a global digital operator that provides converged.



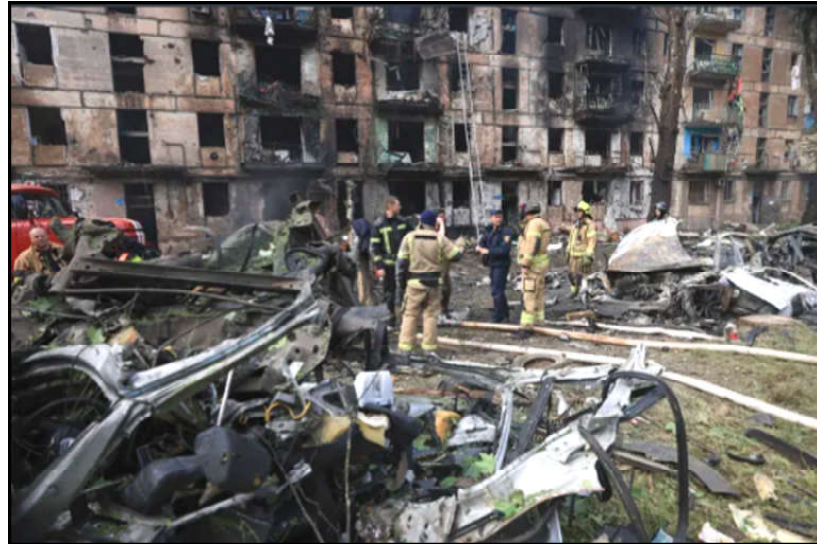
Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vision-Building Future (VBF) to address existing disparities in the financial sphere through a range of targeted initiatives. Under its flagship program, Women Inspirational Network (WIN), Mobilink Bank is geared towards expanding

Iran's president begins Latin America tour with stop in Venezuela

Monitoring Desk
CARACAS: In his first visit to Latin America, Iran's hardline president on Monday met with his Venezuelan counterpart and declared that both countries have "a common enemy," alluding to the United States, before signing a series of cooperation agreements. President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Venezuela came a year and a day after President Nicolás Maduro visited him in Iran. Both countries are under heavy U.S. economic sanctions. Raisi said the link between the two countries "is not normal, but rather a strategic relationship," insisting that their nations have "common interests and we have common enemies." "They do not want the two countries, Iran and

Venezuela, to be independent," Raisi said referring to the U.S. government. His tour of allied nations in Latin America, including Cuba and Nicaragua, comes amid rising tensions with the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden. The U.S. has accused Iran of providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant east of Moscow, while the Kremlin seeks to ensure a steady supply of weapons for its invasion of Ukraine. U.S. intelligence officials believe the plant in Russia could start operations early next year, but Iran has said it supplied drones to Russia before the start of the war. The more than dozen agreements signed by officials from the countries Monday include scholar-

ships for Venezuelan students and the importations of cattle to Iran. Maduro's visit last year to Iran resulted in agreements to expand ties in the oil and petrochemical industries, the military and the economy. But only a handful of the agreements have materialized. Venezuela and Iran have maintained close relations since the government of the late President Hugo Chávez. Maduro, who became president in 2013 after Chávez' death, has promoted trade relations with Iran, China, Russia and Turkey to try to overcome the effects of the economic sanctions. Iran, particularly since 2020, has helped alleviate part of a fuel shortage in Venezuela.



Emergency workers inspect a damaged multi-storey apartment building caused by the latest rocket Russian attack in Kryvyi Rih, Ukraine.

Mexican president nominates Alicia Barcena to be next foreign minister

Monitoring Desk
MEXICO CITY: Mexico's president on Tuesday picked veteran diplomat Alicia Barcena to be the country's new foreign minister after Marcelo Ebrard resigned to focus on his campaign to become the ruling party's candidate in next year's presidential election. A trained biologist, Barcena served for nearly 14 years as executive secretary of the United Nations' Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and has been Mexico's ambassador to Chile since last September. "She's a professional, a diplomat, a woman with convictions, with principles," President Andrés Manuel López Obrador told a press conference, announcing her appointment.

"And she's going to help us in this last stretch of the government," López Obrador, whose term in office will conclude on Sept. 30, 2024, said he expected Barcena to begin her new role in 10 days. The new foreign minister's appointment must be ratified by the Mexican Senate, which should be a formality. In the interim, Deputy Foreign Minister Carmen Moreno will take charge of the ministry, López Obrador said. Ebrard last week announced his plan to step down as foreign minister in order to seek the presidential nomination for the leftist National Regeneration Movement (MORENA), which is heavily favored to win the June 2024 elections.

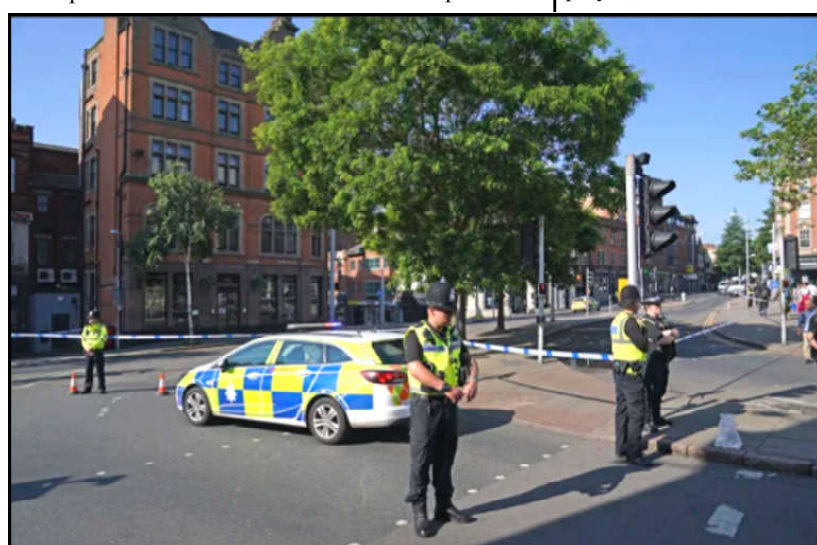
Thai PM frontrunner faces election probe

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: The frontrunner to become Thailand's next prime minister is facing an election probe that could see him disqualified, a senior official said on Monday, in the latest setback to his bid for the premiership. Pita Limjaroenrat's progressive Move Forward Party (MFP) won the most seats at last month's election as voters delivered a crushing rejection of army-linked parties that ran the kingdom for nearly a decade. But he has faced a number of challenges and complaints, and the election commission has now set up a special committee to investigate whether Pita was qualified to run for office. "There is sufficient information and evidence to warrant further investigation into whether Mr Pita is qualified to run in the election."

British court orders company to compensate some Beirut port blast victims

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: A British court has ordered a London-based company that delivered the ammonium nitrate that exploded in 2020 at Beirut's port to pay compensation to some families of the hundreds of victims, Beirut's Bar Association said Tuesday. The verdict in the High Court of Justice on Monday came four months after the court ruled that London-registered chemical trading firm Savaro Ltd. is liable to the victims for the devastating blast. Hundreds of tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive material used in fertilizers that had been improperly stored in the port for years, exploded on Aug. 4, 2020 killing nearly 220 people, injuring over 6,000 others and causing damage in the city worth billions of dollars. Savaro Ltd. is suspected of having chartered the shipment of the ammo-

niun nitrate in 2013 that ended up in Beirut. In Lebanon, documents show a handful of senior political, judicial and security officials were aware of the chemicals in the port for years, but did not take decisive action to get rid of it. The case in Britain was put forward by the Beirut Bar Association because Savaro Ltd. is based there. According to the prosecution office at the Beirut Bar Association, the British court ordered payment of 100,000 British pounds (\$125,900) for each of three plaintiffs whose family members were killed in the blast because of the emotional damage that resulted from their deaths. The court also ordered the payment of more than 500,000 British pounds (\$629,700) for an injured plaintiff as compensation for emotional and physical damage and to cover medical expenses.



Police officers block a road in Nottingham, Britain.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro get ready to sign a bilateral accord at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela.

UN nuclear chief says Large Ukraine atomic power plant held by Russia faces 'dangerous situation'

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The largest nuclear power plant in Europe faces "a relatively dangerous situation" after a dam burst in Ukraine and Kyiv launches a counteroffensive to retake ground occupied by Russia, the head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog said Tuesday. Rafael Moreno Grossi, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, spoke to journalists in Kyiv just before leaving on a trip to the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant. That plant

has been repeatedly in the crossfire since Russia launched its war on Ukraine in February 2022 and seized the facility shortly after. Grossi said he had met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to discuss the situation affecting the plant, which grew more serious after the Kakhovka Dam burst last week. The dam, further down the Dnieper River, helped keep water in a reservoir that cools the plant's reactors. Ukraine has said Russia blew up the dam,

something denied by Moscow, though analysts say the flood likely disrupted Kyiv's counteroffensive plans. Grossi said the level of the reservoir that feeds the plant is dropping "quite steadily" but that it didn't represent an "immediate danger." "It is a serious situation because you are limited to the water you have there," Grossi said. "If there was a break in the gates that contain this water or anything like this, you would really lose all your cooling capacity."

Putin says no need for new mobilisation for now, quips about trying again to take Kyiv

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that for now he saw no need for an additional mobilisation of men to fight in Ukraine but said it all depended on what Russia wanted to achieve there and he asked if Moscow's forces should try to take Kyiv again. "There is no such need today," Putin told a televised meeting of Russian war correspondents and military bloggers when asked about another

mobilisation after last year declaring what he cast as a "partial mobilisation" of 300,000 reservists. Putin said the defence ministry saw no need for another wave of mobilisation. "Some public figures say we need to get 1 million or two million," Putin said. "It depends on what we want." "Should we return there?" Putin said of Kyiv, which Russian troops failed to take in the early stages of what Moscow calls its "special military operation."

Israeli military raid kills 1 Palestinian, 4 people wounded in separate West Bank shooting attack

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: A raid by Israeli security forces into the northern West Bank set off a firefight with militants that killed a young Palestinian man on Tuesday, Palestinian health officials said. Elsewhere in the occupied territory, Israeli medics said that an assailant opened fire, wounding at least four people. The Israeli military stormed into the dense Balata refugee camp near the city of Nablus.



California Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks during a news conference in Paramount Calif.

U.S. concerned North Korea planning to deliver more weapons to Russia

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States is concerned that North Korea is planning to deliver more weapons to Russia, a U.S. State Department spokesperson said on Monday after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to bolster strategic cooperation with Moscow. Earlier on Monday, North Korea's KCNA state news agency said Kim made the pledge in a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin marking Russia's National Day. Kim called for "closer strategic cooperation" with Moscow,

"holding hands firmly with the Russian president, in conformity with the common desire of the peoples of the two countries to fulfill the grand goal of building a powerful country," KCNA said. The State Department spokesperson said that despite Pyongyang's denials that it had sold weapons to Russia for its war in Ukraine, the United States had confirmed North Korea had completed an arms delivery, including infantry rockets and missiles, to the Kremlin-backed Wagner mercenary group in November 2022.

China hopes India can meet it halfway in media row

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China called on Monday on India to meet it halfway in a dispute over journalists working in each other's countries after China said its reporters in India had been treated unfairly and an Indian journalist was asked to leave China. The dispute over media staff is the latest episode to highlight tension between the Asian neighbours since a deterioration in ties in mid-2020 when their troops clashed on their disputed Himalayan frontier and 24 people were killed. "In recent years, Chinese journalists in India have been accorded unfair and discriminatory arrangements," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told a Monday briefing.

UN says insurance coverage secured to salvage rusting oil tanker off Yemen

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: The United Nations has secured insurance coverage to start a ship-to-ship transfer of 1.1 million barrels of crude from a rusting tanker moored off the coast of war-torn Yemen — oil that could cause a major environmental disaster. The United Nations Development Program described the insurance as a "pivotal milestone" in a yearslong effort to evacuate the cargo of the FSO Safer, which is at risk of rupture or exploding. The U.N. agency has been trying to start a salvage operation to avert what it says could amount to "one of the world's largest, man-made disasters in

history." It secured tens of millions of dollars in pledges for the operation, which started late in May with experts pumping inert gas to remove atmospheric oxygen from the oil chambers of the vessel. "Insurance became a critical element of enabling this salvage operation to proceed. Without it, the mission could not go forward," said Achim Steiner, a UNDP administrator. Transferring the stored oil is expected to start later this month, according to David Gressly, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator for Yemen. After completing the transfer of oil, Safer would eventually be towed away and scrapped, he has said.

Police: assailant stabs 3 to death, steals van and runs down 3 in English city of Nottingham

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: A knife-wielding assailant stabbed two college students to death in the streets of the English city of Nottingham and then fatally stabbed a middle-aged man, stole his van and ran down three pedestrians in a shocking early morning rampage Tuesday, police said. One man was hospitalized in critical condition from the hit-and-run. A 31-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of murder and police said they believe he acted alone. Nottinghamshire Police detectives were working with counterterrorism officers to establish a motive. "This is an horrific and tragic incident which has claimed the lives of three people," Chief Constable Kate Meynell said. Two 19-year-old students from the University of Nottingham were among the dead. "We are shocked and devastated by the news," the school said in an announcement. A graduation ball that had been scheduled Tuesday evening was canceled. The attack on the students occurred around

Nato begins unprecedented air drill in 'show of strength'

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Nato began its largest ever air force deployment exercise in Europe on Monday, in a display of unity toward partners and potential threats such as Russia. The German-led "Air Defender 23" will include some 250 military aircraft from 25 Nato and partner countries including Japan and Sweden, which is bidding to join the alliance. It will run until June 23. Up to 10,000 service members are to participate in the drills intended to boost interoperability and preparedness to protect against drones and cruise missiles in the case of an attack within Nato territory. "The significant mes-

sage we're sending is that we can defend ourselves," Lieutenant General Ingo Gerhartz of the German Luftwaffe told public television. "Air Defender" was conceived in 2018 in part as a response to the Russian annexation of Crimea from Ukraine four years before, though Gerhartz insisted it was "not targeted at anyone". He said the exercise would not "send any flights, for example, in the direction of Kaliningrad," the Russian enclave bordering alliance member states Poland and Lithuania. "We are a defensive alliance and that is how this exercise is planned," he said.

Japan's Kishida unveils new child care plan amid election rumours

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida unveiled on Tuesday a package of wide-ranging measures to reverse a dwindling birthrate, saying the problem needed to be tackled as an ageing population threatens the world's third-largest economy. Kishida's flagship policy comes amid speculation that he will dissolve parliament's lower house this week and call a snap election, a move that could heighten calls from within his ruling party for big spending to boost its support among the electorate. "Now is the last chance to reverse the downturn in childbirth by the 2030s," Kishida told a televised press conference. "The low birthrate is a massive problem that concerns our country's society and entire economy and can't be put off," he said. "Without arresting the fast-declining birthrate and populations, Japan's economy and society would shrink, making it dif-

ficult to maintain social security systems." With measures such as bigger payouts to families with children and providing homes for hundreds of thousands of such households, Kishida said he hoped to double child care spending by the early 2030s, from about 4.7 trillion yen (\$33.7 billion) now. The package may help his party appeal to the public, fanning speculation of an early election. Although an election for parliament's powerful lower house is not due until late 2025, Kishida, who swept to power in October 2021, is keen to boost his grip over the party ahead of a leadership race next September, analysts say. Kishida sidestepped queries on plans for a snap election, saying numerous factors would govern the decision as the approaching end of the parliament session could make for a fluid political situation. "I want to be sure that I can assess the situation appropriately," he added.

Belarus to get Russian tactical nuclear weapons 'in days'

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said on Tuesday that Russian tactical nuclear weapons would be physically deployed on the territory of Belarus "in several days" and that he had the facilities to host longer-range missiles too if ever needed. Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Russia, which will retain control of the tactical nuclear weapons, would start deploying them in close ally Belarus after special storage facilities to house them were made ready on July 7-8. The deployment will be Moscow's first move of such warheads - shorter-range less powerful nuclear weapons that could potentially be used on the battlefield - outside Russia since the fall of the Soviet Union. The step is being watched closely by the

United States and its allies as well as by China, which has repeatedly cautioned against the use of nuclear weapons in the Ukraine war. Lukashenko, a staunch Putin ally, was cited by Belta as saying that Belarus was now ready to host the warheads. "Everything is ready. I think we will have what we asked for in a few days, and even a little bit more," he was quoted as saying. Putin announced in March he had agreed to deploy tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus, pointing to the U.S. deployment of such weapons in a host of European countries over many decades. The United States has criticised Putin's decision but has said it has no intention of altering its own stance on strategic nuclear weapons and has not seen any signs that Russia is preparing to use a nuclear weapon.

Senate body recommends rationalizing Super tax, advance tax for non-filer

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue Tuesday recommended to reduce super tax besides rationalizing advance tax for non-filer.

The committee met here under the chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla discussed and approved several tax proposals under Finance Bill 2023. The body proposed to reduce the super tax to 7 percent from 10 percent on income above Rs 500 million besides charging tax at the rate of 6 percent on income between Rs 400 million to Rs 500 million and 4 percent on income between Rs 300 million to Rs 400 million. Earlier, the FBR official said that the budget proposed super tax at the rate of 10 percent on income above Rs 500 million, 8 percent on income between Rs 400 million to Rs 500 million, and 6 percent on income between Rs 300 million to Rs 400 million.

The committee also suggested to increase the advance tax at the rate of 1 percent from 0.6 percent for non-filer persons on cash withdrawal from banks.

To encourage foreign

remittance, the committee approved exemption of 2 percent tax on purchase of immovable property for a non-resident individual holding Pakistan Origin Card (POC), National Identity Card for Overseas Pakistani (NICOP) and computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) acquiring immovable property through SBP notified FCA and NRVA accounts.

After detailed discussion, the committee also approved the limit of US \$ 100,000 under unexplained income or Assets, it is a remittance from outside Pakistan through normal banking channels. Senator Saadia Abbasi said that it was good for Pakistan that people invested in the country and also proposed that it was an income through proper banking channels so the word 'unexplained income' should be changed.

The body also approved the minimum tax on income of certain persons. The committee approved the FBR proposal regarding recovery of liability outstanding under other law which includes empowering the commissioner to recover any outstanding liability.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of PML-N leadership from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Simultaneously holding of general elections in interest of country; Azam

Emphasizes role of ECP in setting election date, underscoring its legal authority; Govt committed to closing its tenure along with NA within the constitutional framework, as bound by law

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Tuesday said that holding of general elections at the same time was in the interest of the country.

The minister expressed these views while addressing the PILDAT Forum on 'How Prepared is the ECP to hold Free and Fair General Election.'

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar in his address offered the government's perspective on the upcoming general election, outlining key elements of the Elections Act 2017.

He emphasized the role of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in setting the election date, underscoring its legal authority.

Acknowledging the financial constraints the ECP faced in the past year, Senator Tarar stated, "Our ECP

is a strengthened institution."

He said that these constraints were no longer the case. He assured the attendees that the government was committed to closing its tenure along with the National Assembly within the constitutional framework, as bound by law.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar lauded the ECP's proactive approach to ensuring free and fair elections.

Zafar Iqbal, provided a comprehensive update on the progress made against the ECP's third strategic plan (2019-2023). He said that the ECP had achieved 90% of implementation of its Strategic Plan and it was ready to hold free and fair general election in 2023.

He announced that the ECP was fully prepared to hold a free and fair general election, signaling its readiness to fulfill its vital role in the democratic process.

Special steps afoot to uplift merged tribal areas of KP: PM

Economic issues of the people would be reduced with provision of trade facility in border areas

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that special measures had been included in the fiscal budget 2023-24 for the uplift of merged tribal areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Expressing his resolve to transform Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as cradle of peace, the prime minister regretted that the previous government had altogether neglected the development and progress of the province.

The prime minister expressed these views during a meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Muslim League-N leadership from the province, PM Office Media Wing said in a press

release. During the meeting, the political situation of the country was discussed. They also deliberated over the upcoming general elections in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. During the meeting, Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javid Abbasi, PM's Adviser Engineer Amir Muqam, Senator Pir Sabir Shah, members of the National Assembly captain (retd) Muhammad Safdar, Sajjad Ahmed and former MNAs Shahabuddin, Jamshaid Khan and Aurangzaib Nalotha were present. The prime minister assured that the federal government would ensure that the residents of KP should fully avail of its health and educational projects.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Dr Ahsan Iqbal unveiling the plaque to inaugurate ceremony of the new building of Institute for Energy and Environment Engineering at Punjab University.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar addressing the Public Forum organized by PILDAT on the Status of Implementation of the ECP's 3rd Strategic Plan.

Hina, EU commissioners discuss matters of bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): As part of her ongoing visit to Belgium, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani on Tuesday held extensive meetings with two European Union (EU) Commissioners in Brussels.

The Minister of State called on the European Commissioner for Crisis Management Janez Lenaric to follow up on discussions pertaining to the EU's flood relief activities in Pakistan.

During the interaction, the Minister of State thanked the EU for activating the European Civil Protection Mechanism post floods which enabled immediate assistance from the EU during the rehabilitation phase.

The two sides agreed to explore further avenues for collaboration in disaster

management and capacity building, said a statement received here.

In her meeting with the European Commissioner for Home Affairs Ylva Johansson, the Minister of State discussed optimal utilization of the recently launched Migration and Mobility Dialogue including opportunities for legal migration of skilled labor. It was agreed to strengthen cooperation in the implementation of the Pakistan-EU Readmission Agreement.

In her interactions at the EU Commission, the Minister of State expressed the hope that the EU would take a leadership role in dealing with emerging global challenges and non-traditional security threats including climate change, pandemics, water, energy, and food security.



QUETTA: Muslim League (PML-N) Provincial President, Shaikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail addresses Press Conference, at Quetta Press Club.

Gillani calls for unity, economic reforms amidst challenges

ISLAMABAD (APP): Former Prime Minister, Senator, Syed Yousuf Raza Gillani on Tuesday urged both the treasury and opposition benches to unite during difficult times in order to tackle the prevailing economic crisis faced by the country. During his speech on the budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 in Senate, he emphasized the crucial need for a "Charter of Economy," underscoring its significance in the current hour of trials and tribulations.

He highlighted the adverse financial conditions inherited by the coalition government of the Pakistan

Democratic Movement (PDM) due to the poor economic policies of the previous administration.

Senator Gillani pointed out that, in an attempt to gain public sympathy, the leadership of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) violated the terms and conditions set by the Inter-national Monetary Fund before facing a "no trust motion." However, despite the declining political popularity of the PDM, they approached the situation with a positive and non-partisan attitude, prioritizing the national interest and striving to steer the country out of the economic crisis.

Two bodies found in Quetta

QUETTA (INP): Bodies of two people including a child were recovered from different areas of the provincial capital on Tuesday, rescue sources said.

According to details, beheaded body of an unidentified person was recovered from Qambrani road area of Kechi Baig. The body was shifted to civil hospital through Chhipa Ambulance.

Body of 12-year-old Abdul Nabi was recovered from Khazai Chowk Manzoor Maidani nullah. The body was shifted to BMC hospital via Edhi ambulance.

The police after registering separate cases in both incidents at respective police stations have started investigations.

PAC directs MoFA to make financial system more transparent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee Tuesday directed the authorities concerned of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) to make its internal audit system more effective to ensure better financial management in the foreign missions.

Noor Alam Khan presided over the committee meeting which reviewed the audit objections of 2019-20 of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Planning and Development.

Bus-tractor trolley collision claims 5 lives in Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (Online): At least 5 persons have been killed and 2 have been critically injured in collision between bus and tractor trolley here in the area of Satiana.

The incident occurred when a passenger bus on its way from Pakpattan to Islamabad collided with a tractor trolley coming from opposite side. 5 persons died and 2 were critically injured. The injured were rushed to Allied hospital in precarious condition. According to police the victims were residents of Okara.

Govt working to revive economy, overcome other challenges: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Prof Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday

said that Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz government during its previous tenure launched significant uplift projects, eliminated terrorism, overcome power outage, revived economy and achieved other milestones for the progress and prosperity of the country.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of newly constructed building of the Department of Energy and Environment Engineering, University of the Punjab, he said that it was pleasing to see completion of Energy & Environment Department's project which was ap-

proved during the PML-N's previous tenure.

He said that in 2013 before the PML-N government, the country was facing severe economic challenges, power outage, terrorism, and the international media was labelling Pakistan as most dangerous country in the world but the PML-N after coming into power adopted comprehensive strategies to restore the country's image, eliminate terrorism, overcome load shedding and revive economy of the country.

The Minister said the PML-N government in 2013 had introduced a policy of 3Es - Energy sources and solutions,

elimination of extremism and economic revival to put the country on road to development and progress which was successfully achieved as more than 11,000 megawatt electricity was generated and added to the national grid only in four years, taking out the country from darkness. It was a historic achievement as no government in 65 years could generate and add such electricity capacity in the system, he maintained.

Ahsan Iqbal said that for action against terrorism and extremism, the security forces and law enforcement agencies were provided all resources and support to eliminate terrorism.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

SC adjourns hearing of journalist Arshad Sharif's murder case till July

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of renowned journalist Arshad Sharif's murder case till the first week of July.

A five-member larger bench of the apex court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Sayyid Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhail and Justice

Muhammad Ali Mazhar heard the suo moto notice case.

During the course of proceedings, the Attorney General for Pakistan appeared before the bench and submitted the report of the Special joint investigation team (JIT). The report of the Special JIT was delayed due to certain reasons, he added.

He said that contacts with Interpol were ongoing.

Naz Baloch calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Member National Assembly Naz Baloch called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Matters relating to current political situation also came under discussion during the meeting, a statement issued by the Prime Minister Office said.

OIC chief lauds Pak active role for joint Islamic action

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Hissein Brahim Taha on Tuesday appreciated the active role of Pakistan in the OIC and in promoting the joint Islamic action. The OIC chief received Pakistan's Permanent Representative to OIC Syed Mohammad Fawad Sher at the headquarters of the General Secretariat.

NEPRA notifies Rs 1.61 per unit increase in power tariff

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Tuesday notified Rs 1.61 per unit increase in power tariff for XWapda power distribution companies (DICOs) for April under monthly fuel adjustment mechanism.

According to the power regulator notification, Central Power Purchasing Agency (CPPA-G) had sought a Rs2.1 per unit increase in the tariff for the said period.

The NEPRA conducted a public hearing into the matter on May 30.

Country will not stay if NAB stays: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N senior leader Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has said country will not stay if NAB stays adding NAB be abolished.

"Istehkam Pakistan Party (IPP) will make no difference in national politics. If any impact of this party comes on country it will be negative impact, he said this while talking to media men after his appearance in Accountability Court (AC) Tuesday.

Any one can make budget of Pakistan, he said adding first borrow money and then make the budget.

He held people will decide about government performance on election day.

"I have been coming to court since the last four years. Case has not been run so far. Allegation was leveled against me then run the case.

He demanded of the government to abolish NAB. If institution like NAB remains then country will not make progress, he added.

If there is no evidence against me then NAB should apologize, he remarked.



ISLAMABAD: Minister of state for Petroleum, Dr. Musadik Malik addressing a press conference.

Lawmakers appreciate govt's balanced budget

ISLAMABAD (APP): The lawmakers in the National Assembly here on Tuesday expressed their appreciation for the government's presentation of a balanced budget despite prevailing economic challenges. During the general discussion on the Budget for the year 2023-24, Maulana Muhammad Anwar of MMAP acknowledged Pakistan's multifaceted challenges and stressed the importance of unity in accordance with Islamic teachings to effectively overcome them.

Noor Ul Hassan Tanvir commended the government for announcing a balanced budget despite the difficult economic circumstances.

He advocated for justice to be served to Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the fabricated cases initiated by PTI, while also highlighting the achievements of Sharif's previous

administrations. Mahesh Kumar Malani lauded the salary increase for employees and pensioners, recognizing it as a significant step to address the financial struggles faced by individuals affected by inflation.

He also lauded the government's allocation of additional funds for development projects and the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP) emphasized the need to establish an interest-free economic system in line with the Constitution of Pakistan and Islamic laws.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Communication & Works Sardar Abdul Rehman Khetran presiding over a meeting regarding performance of C&W Department