

Independent

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Sunday passed the Finance Bill 2023-24 with certain amendments in the proposed budgetary measures and the total outlay of Rs 14.48 trillion to achieve macroeconomic stability and the set target of a 3.5 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate. The Finance Bill, moved by Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, was passed with majority vote after clause-by-clause reading. The House echoed with desk thumping as the House passed the budget. The passage of the Finance Bill has successfully brought to an end the bud

Continued on page 2

Life-time disqualification hanging sword went away from Nawaz Sharif

New election bill empowers ECP to unilaterally announce and delay polls

ISLAMABAD (Online): Hanging sword of life-time disqualification over Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Supremo Nawaz Shareef went away as National Assembly (NA) passed 'Election act amendment 2017' bill by consensus. Election Commission of Pakistan will announce general election schedule and will also be able to change it. Finance minister Ishaq Dar presented more amendments in 'Election Act Amendment Bill'. National Assembly session held under the chairmanship of speaker Ayaz Sadiq. Election Act 2017 amendment bill passed in session unanimously. Section 57 of the bill was amended in NA session. Election Commission now will announce election schedule and date and can amend schedule also.



QUETTA: MPA Asghar Khan Achakzai greets Provincial Finance Minister Engr. Zamrak Khan Achakzai on passage of budget

CM Bizenjo wants public project's completion by June 30

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudous Bizenjo on Saturday issued instructions through the summary sent to the Department of Planning and Development regarding the progress of development projects. Which the Deputy Commissioners have been asked to inaugurate the public projects completed by June 30 so that the completed projects can be formally started and completed projects' fruits can be delivered to the people. The chief minister said in the summary that he wanted to see all the completed projects operational by August. He said that the people were the rightful and owner of the projects developed

with the resources of the people and their credit would go to the people saying that for this reason, no VIP would inaugurate the projects. He directed that the children were studying in government schools that they would inaugurate newly schools despite the newly hospitals could be launched by patients who under treatment processes in the official hospitals. While the green bus service should be inaugurated for women and men traveling by public transport. The chief minister has also directed that the inauguration ceremonies should be held simply and unnecessary expenses should be avoided in these ceremonies.



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

BHC orders DRAP to set up office of Federal Drugs Inspector at Quetta

QUETTA: The Balochistan High Court (BHC) has ordered to the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP) to set up the office of Federal Drugs Inspector with all facilities in Quetta besides preparing the draft of establishing Drug Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company. The order was passed by the division bench of BHC comprising Mr. Justice Muhammad Kamran Mulakhail and Mr. Justice Sardar Ahmed Haleemi in a constitutional petition the

other day. According to the verdict, the Additional Secretary of Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination assured the court that the office of Drug Inspector would be set up without any delay in Quetta. However, time is required for the purpose, he pleaded. On this, the court gave time of six weeks for establishing the office of Drug Inspector. In this regard, the court also ordered to submit a report for observation.

Load shedding duration increases to 8 to 10 hours

ISLAMABAD (Online): Load shedding duration across the country crossed eight to ten hours as electricity short fall reached to 6598 Mega Watt (MW). According to power division sources total electricity is 20402MW and the demand is 27000 MW. Hydropower plant is producing 6200MW, Government thermal power plant producing 563MW electricity and production of private electricity production house is 9000MW whereas wind power plant production is 1245MW. Electricity house of solar panel are producing 100MW and nuclear power plant is producing 3164MW electricity. BGUas is producing 130MW electricity.

Legal committee to pave way for Nawaz's return

ISLAMABAD (INP): The legal committee was formed on Sunday in line to clear the path for Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) supremo Nawaz Sharif's return to the country. According to sources, committee to be headed by Law Minister Azam Nazeer Tarar. The committee also comprised SAPM Ata Tarar, Irfan Qadir, Amjad Pervaiz and other lawyers. The committee will make every effort to remove any legal barriers to Nawaz's return to the country. On the other side, PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif will hold key meetings today. Sources divulged that Nawaz, who was visiting Dubai with his family, will meet the members of royal family. He will also interact with the business community. Nawaz will be accompanied by PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar in a group photo with participants of National Workshop Balochistan-XI

Balochistan cabinet directs security agencies to abolish check posts at highways

No utilization of check posts at highways seen ever nor any terrorist captured from buses; special sitting of cabinet decides to take wholehearted action against drugs sellers on Sariab road and other areas of Quetta city

QUETTA: In a crucial development, the Balochistan cabinet has expressed strong reaction over establishment of the check posts at the roads and highways in the name of security checking and directed all the concerned federal and provincial security agencies to abolish the check posts immediately. The cabinet met with the Chief Minister Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo in the chair at late Saturday night also decided that no institution would establish its check posts at the highways without valid permission of the provincial government in future. As per the decision of cabinet, the establishment of check posts by the law enforcement agencies would be made conditional with permission of the provincial Home department. It was asserted in the cabinet meeting that humiliation of the people is not acceptable at all adding that no one would be allowed to spoil the respect of the commuters whatsoever. The cabinet regretfully observed that the women, children, patients are elderly persons travelling in the passenger coaches are



QUETTA: Vehicles are on their way during heavy rainfall after a long spell of hot weather in the city

Minister Home concerned about suicide attack by a female in Turbat

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has expressed deep concern over the suicide attack by a female in Turbat on Saturday. According to an official hand out issued here on Sunday, the Minister Home said that the provincial government has always been committed to raise voice at every forum on the social exploitation of the women. Moreover, we have been agreed and standing with them for the legal and constitutional rights of our mothers and sisters. However, such kind of incidents are raising questions on our religion and tribal traditions, which has no room at all. The Minister maintained that such kind of incidents are a failed attempt to put the women of our society towards destruction.

Governor exhorts intelligentsia to play due part to cope with challenges faced by Pakistan

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar asks participants of NWB to play active and enthusiastic role for promotion of sustainable peace, promotion of national harmony and spirit

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Kakar has exhorted upon intelligentsia to play part for coping with the challenges being faced by the country. The Governor was speaking at the closing ceremony of National Workshop Balochistan (NWB) here the other day. While appreciating the NWB, the Governor expressed the hope that participants would play more active and enthusiastic role for promotion of sustainable peace as well as promotion of national harmony and national spirit. He said that the workshop is a darsgah (learning institution) where the participants learn something in short span of two weeks what they can't learn in big universities. The Governor also said that the participants of NWB are lucky to have an opportunity to learn through the able experienced teachers and experts. In addition to this, they would have the opportunity to share the experiences and observations with the fellow, he maintained. What's needed now for the participants is that they would use the knowledge and learning they gained while attending the workshop in their respective institutions and areas with utmost honesty, adding the Governor stressed. This would also help build their capacity and thus improve performance of their respective institutions, he believed. He observed that first of all the disease is identified, then the experts diagnose it and then prescribe treatment. He on the occasion also stressed the need to take practical steps besides acquiring knowledge in the society as the real knowledge can only make difference and bring positive and constructive change in the society.

Information minister criticises previous government for bulldozing IMF agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said on Sunday that it was strange that those who ruined the national economy were crying over signs of restoration of agreement signed by themselves with International Monetary Fund (IMF). In a statement, the minister said that on May 9, they burned the country, attacked military and private properties, desecrated the memorials of martyrs and now they were preparing to damage the economic interests of the country again. "Arsonsits, conspirators and enemies of the country have started crying again as they heard the news that the agreement with the IMF is being restored", she maintained. Marriyum said that the previous regime signed the



make the country default", she added. The minister said that former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during his tenure had stabilized the country's economy, but "the foreign agent" shook the foundations of the economy and the country had to seek the IMF's support. "Not only did they violate and suspend this agreement, but they conspired to

Deputy Speaker summons QESCO chief after members strongly react over power load shedding crisis

QUETTA: The Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly, Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail has summoned the Chief Executive Officer of Quetta Electric Supply Company (QESCO) over the power load shedding issue at 03:00 PM on Monday (today). Actually it was the budget session of provincial assembly, which was resumed on Sunday afternoon. However, on a point of order, raised by the MPA Nasrullah Zairay, the members strongly reacted over the power load shedding crisis in Quetta and other parts. Mr. Zairay pointed out that worst ever load shedding of electricity is being observed in Quetta these days. He said that the people are suffering due to the lengthy power load shedding in the severe cold weather. He requested the chair to summon the QESCO chief and ask him as why the duration of power load shedding has been increased? He also pointed out that the Customs tams are conducting raids in the markets of Quetta and thus exceeding the authority. He also urged the Deputy Speaker to call the Collector Customs on the issue. The leader of Opposition Malik Sikandar Khan Advocate and MPA Qadir Nayal also endorsed the point of Nasrullah Zairay pointing out that the power load shedding has become a matter of routine in Quetta with no exception to his constituency. Malik Sikandar also urged the chair to summon the QESCO chief over the issue and speak to him about the crisis. Meanwhile, the assembly approved the supplementary grant of over Rs. 37 billion for the current financial year 2022-23. The Provincial Minister for Finance, Zamarak Khan Achakzai presented the motions about supplementary grant.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers Haji Muhammad Khan Lehri, Abdul Khaliq Hazara, Parliamentary Secretary Majabeen Shiran, MPAS Qadir Nayel, Mir Zabid Reki, Mir Younis Aziz Zehri, Nasrullah Zarey and Molvi Noorullah talking Balochistan Assembly session

US not influencing Pakistan on ties with China, says envoy Blome

KARACHI (INP): Ambassador Donald Blome has denied that the United States is pressuring Pakistan to choose between the US and China. He was speaking at an interactive session on 'US-Pakistan Relations: Present and Future' organised by the Pakistan Council on Foreign Relations (PCFR) here. Ambassador Blome opined that trade among partners was key towards economic prosperity. The trade must also be equitable and our message to China is to go forward with fair trade terms and Pakistan should demand the same from its economic relationships, he added. He said that for the last

four decades, many policy makers in Washington have viewed Pakistan with the lens of US engagement in Afghanistan. More recently, some commentators try to frame the US relationship with Pakistan in perspective of China or India or Russia, he said and added that it should stand on its own. The US engagement with Pakistan remained very strong, he continued. The ambassador saw Pakistan's economic future bright as an engine of a larger regional economy, connecting South and Central Asia. He hinted at potential of an improved economic relationship with India.

Khawaja Asif opposes Chairman Senate Salaries, Allowance, Privileges Bill

Says no bar for ECP to hold next elections in October

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

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

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

He said such privilege in the current financial circumstance could not be af-

forded. Lauding the Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar and his entire finance teams, he said that a balanced budget was presented despite of critical situation.

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

The parliament has given permission to ECP to conduct general elections as per schedule, he said while talking to a private television channel.

The incumbent government has allocated funds for arranging the elections in a free and fair manner, he said.

In reply to a question about life time disqualification for political leaders, he said, "it is human right violation to disqualify the political leaders for life time."

About Nawaz Sharif, he said that former prime minister would reach Pakistan soon and lead the election campaign.

He hoped that PML-N, would win the general elections with the full support of the people. To a question, he said that PML-N, would continue development and welfare works under the vision and guidance of Nawaz Sharif.

He said Nawaz Sharif had been facing false cases registered against him by rival party. Commenting on dissolving assemblies before the time, he said, it is just rumors being spread in the country.

Eight killed, 39 other injured in road mishap

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

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

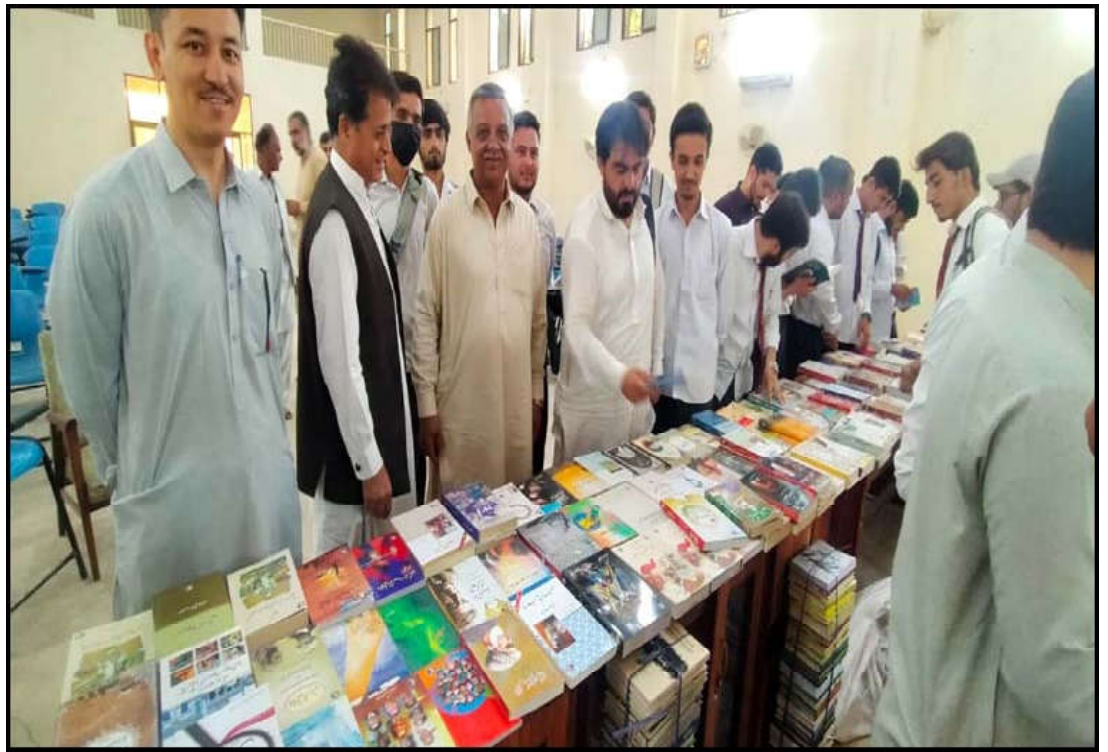
According to a police spokesman, the accident occurred due to overspeeding.

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

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

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

The cause of the accident is an aid to overspeeding and negligence.



NBF launches four day book fair in Quetta

QUETTA (APP): A four-day book fair organized by the National Book Foundation (NBF) was kicked off at Government Post Graduate College Sardar Muhammad Musa Khan here Sunday.

College Principal Professor Hafeezur Rahman and National Book Foundation Assistant Director Raheel Ahmed Bugti inaugurated the book fair by cutting the ribbon.

A large number of teachers and students were present on the occasion who showed keen interest in the books. On this occasion, the College Principal visited various book stalls of the National Book Foundation and appreciated the books. The participants also appreciated the publications of the National Book Foundation and liked the series of book fairs. The Principal of the College made students aware of the usefulness and importance of the books and literature. He said that this was the era of book-reading and our success was possible only through books.

The students bought books in large numbers and thanked the National Book Foundation for providing quality books at discounted prices.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretaries watching proceeding of Balochistan Assembly

NA passes Finance Bill 2023....

Continued from page 1
getary process started on June 9 with the budget speech of the finance minister at the National Assembly.

The bill now would go to the President for assent who will sign it into a law, and effective from July 1, 2023.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf put all the amendments proposed by lawmakers Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali, Saira Bano, Nisar Cheema, Zahra Wadood Fatimi, Nawab Sher Waseer, Asiya Azeem, which were rejected with a majority vote; except Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali's amendment, which was included in the bill by the Assembly's approval.

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

In the light of Senate recommendations, the National Assembly also approved the amendments proposed in the Finance Bill 2023-24 by the Finance Minister.

The bill, presented in the House on June 9 by the Finance minister for consideration, got the approval of the National Assembly with certain changes in the figures related to revenue targets and other matters in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

Accordingly, the revenue target of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) had increased from Rs 9.2 trillion to Rs 9.415 trillion, provincial revenue from Rs 5.276 trillion to Rs 5.39 trillion, federal government expenditures from Rs 14.46 trillion to Rs 14.48 trillion, the pension volume from Rs 761 billion to Rs 801 billion, the subsidy volume would stand at Rs 1.064 trillion and the grants volume at Rs. 1.405 trillion.

As a result of all these measures, improvements would be seen in the budget's deficit, and the fiscal deficit would decrease by Rs 300 billion.

Later, the finance minister thanked the lawmakers and the government allies and the staff of supporting departments for the smooth conduct of the special budget session and subsequent passage of the fiscal plan for the year 2023-24.

He expressed confidence that the budgetary measures would help resume the development-journey which faced a complete halt after 2018.

He said the country, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had succeeded in achieving economic stability and started moving towards a consistent path of progress and development, adding, the process of economic decline has stopped. "Our next goal is to begin the journey of progress for which solid

proposals have been given in the budget," he added.

Ishaq Dar explained that yesterday, his statement regarding the special Hajj flights was presented in the media and social media in an incorrect manner, adding all lawmakers were going to perform the religious obligation at their own expenses.

He said the Saudi government had stopped further Hajj flights, but Pakistan regarding the Saudi government to allow one flight enabling the lawmakers, participating in the on-going budget session, to reach the holy land for the Hajj.

The minister announced honorarium equal to three basic salaries for all the government employees deputed to perform the special budget session duties in the Parliament premises.

Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar clarified on Sunday that there would be no double pension for government employees falling in the category of Grade 17-22.

Responding to a point raised by Minister for Water Resources Syed Khurshid Ahmed Shah in the National Assembly, the minister explained that the restriction would not apply to government employees below Grade 17, as there were instances where some employees retired after 15-20 years of service and started another job.

The minister stated that if some employees (Grade 17-22) were working on a contract basis after retirement, they would have to choose one pension that suited them, as the policy began from the top. He emphasized that this was an old issue that should have been resolved earlier, which the incumbent government had started to redress.

Ishaq Dar mentioned that there was no specific timeframe for pension payments to the dependents of retired employees and widows after their passing. However, this has now been limited to 10 years.

He stressed that such reforms were crucial because the pension budget had reached Rs 800 billion, which was nearly 50 percent less than the current figure a few years back. He warned that without these reforms, it would become unsustainable for the country.

Addressing concerns raised by Ghous Bux Khan Mahar of the Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) regarding the withdrawal of the urea subsidy, the minister stated that the government aimed to promote local fertilizer production and achieve self-sufficiency in this sector.

He mentioned that several Pakistani companies were planning to invest over \$200 million in the urea production sector.

Balochistan cabinet directs...

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forced to stop for hours at the check posts.

It was stated that it is responsibility of the government and agencies to provide security to the people.

It was urged the federal security agencies to protect the country and ensure prevention of the smuggling and narcotics while performing at the borders. But, the Customs, Coast Guard, police and levies have no authority to bother the people at the check posts. It was pointed out that there are no check posts in the cities or at the highways in other provinces. So, there should also not be such check posts in Balochistan like other parts of the country, adding the cabinet stressed.

However, the cabinet stressed that the security agencies should carry out targeted operations against the anti-social elements. It was clearly stated that no utilization of the check posts at the highways was seen, nor any terrorist was captured from the buses.

PPP committed to serve people in country: Sardar Sarbuland

QUETTA (APP) Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP)'s information Secretary Sardar Sarbuland Jozezai on Sunday said that Pakistan Peoples Party leaders would start preparations for general elections from now.

The PPP will win from all over the country, including Balochistan, in the general elections as well as the local elections, and Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari will be the new Prime Minister of the country.

He expressed these views while talking to Loralai Division President Lala Rahmat Khan Kadezai, General Secretary Abdul Ghafoor Jafar, Loralai District President Akhundzada Ehsamuddin Kadezai.

During the meeting, the party affairs of Loralai Division and Loralai District were also discussed.

Sardar Sarbuland Jozezai congratulated the councilors of the party won with a huge majority in the local elections held in Balochistan due to the struggle of the Pakistan Peoples Party, after which the councilors of the party were also successful in the elections held on specific seats.

He said that the general elections were nearing all over the country, the workers and members of PPP should convey the message of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and former President Asif Ali Zardari from door to door and keep in close contact with the people.

He said that the PPP would win with a huge majority across the country, including Balochistan and party chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would be the new prime minister of the country.



QUETTA: A motorcyclist buying fodder for the sacrificial animal by the roadside vendor

BNPA only ray of Hope for people: Ehsan

Independent Report

USTA MUHAMMAD:

The provincial leader of National Party Awami, a well-known tribal personality, Rehbar Kharan Chief Ehsan Ali Mulangzi, has said that steps must be taken in a real sense for a prosperous and developed Balochistan, emotional slogans and showing a green garden will not change the destiny of Balochistan.

He expressed these views while talking to journalists. On this occasion, senior leaders of BNPA Kharan Abdul Khaliq Malazai and Mir Habib Malazai were also present.

He further said, "Nature has made Balochistan a province rich in natural resources, but unfortunately, the rulers of Islamabad and self-interested politicians are taking the natural resources as booty and returning Balochistan to backwardness with both hands and the people are completely deprived of the basic facilities of life."

A prosperous Balochistan is the vision of Mir Asad Baloch, the leader of the people and the zealous people of Balochistan consider Balochistan National Party Awami as ray of hope and they are proud of the leadership of Mir Asad Baloch, he said.



BERLIN: Safer Abid of Pakistan posing for photograph who won the gold medal in the 10km Time-Trial Race of the cycling event of the 16th Special Olympic World Games.

Safer Abid wins gold medal in 10km cycling event

KARACHI (APP): Safer

Abid of Pakistan won the gold medal in the 10 km time-trial race of the cycling event of the 16th Special Olympic World Games. Abid completed the 10km distance in 23 minutes and 02.02 seconds, according to a communicate here on Sunday.

Pakistan has so far won 10 gold medals in the Special Olympic World Games.

Safer Abid from Karachi said that he has participated in the World Games for the first time, for which he had been preparing for the last two years.

"I have paid full attention, passion and wish to win more medals for Pakistan in the upcoming international events. In the 500m time trial

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

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

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

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

26 JUNE 2023

Life is a
PRECIOUS GIFT OF GOD

The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

Let us make a pledge today that we will protect our nation from narcotics and will continue our efforts and struggle to eradicate this menace from our country.

One Nation - One Destination Drug Free Pakistan

Helpline 1415

ANTI NARCOTICS FORCE PAKISTAN

PID(18027-D)

MESSAGE BY
DIRECTOR GENERAL
ANTI NARCOTICS FORCE

Major General
Muhammad Aneeq Ur Rehman Malik,
HI (M) DIRECTOR GENERAL
ANTI NARCOTICS FORCE (Pakistan)

Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) being the premier Drug Law Enforcement Agency reiterates its resolve and commitment to eliminate the menace of drugs from the country. Our efforts against supply and proliferation of drugs remain un-flinched wherein our endavours are unwavering to apprehend and bring to book the perpetrators of drug trafficking. At the same time, our efforts towards raising awareness among all segments of citizenry through multi-dimensional campaigns are an important facet.

To make our efforts more meaningful, today on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, I feel honored in saying that Pakistan is a flag-bearer of international counter-narcotics efforts. Through diligent and sustained efforts, Pakistan is maintaining Poppy Free Status since 2001.

While adroitly marshaling the available resources and creating synergy with other state organs and international partners, ANF remains unrelenting against menace of drugs in all its manifestations. However, the global dimension of the menace asks for more collaboration, cooperation and coordination between nations and international organizations.

As Director General ANF Pakistan, I assure our nation and international community of our strong resolve, unwavering commitment and invariant will against drug trafficking and abuse.

I also appreciate the efforts of all ranks of Anti-Narcotics Force and sister LEAs who are committed day and night to eliminate this menace from our motherland.

I also pay homage to the "Shuhada of ANF", who had laid their lives for the noble cause. While drawing inspiration from them, we pledge our nation that ANF is ready to offer any sacrifice for the fulfillment of its sacred mission of achieving a drug free society.

One Nation-One Destination Drug Free Pakistan



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

Pakistani delegation visits Hunnan for exchanges

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAC disposes of audit objections on 360 technologies

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

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

According to document issued by Auditor General Office communication ministry sub institute Pakistan Post and 360 technologies has made three year agreement of various services including up gradation, complaint cell, IPS, and Mobile delivery and on the provision of best services Pakistan post extended the agreement for two years more.

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

Auditor General of Pakistan Office sent the issue of two year extension in agreement between Messer Telcho Net (who is providing centralized software solution) and Pakistan Post despite unsatisfactory services, on the proof of objections after inquiry PAC (Public Accounts Committee) handed over the issue to FIA, and directed communication ministry to submit report of agreement with Messer 360 Technologies to committee.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

Intl Day against Drug Abuse to be marked today

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

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

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

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

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IRSA releases 314,700 cusecs water

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under the influence of

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

dence and all these were false cases.

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

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



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

PIMS doctors once again out on protest

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Institute of Medical Science (PIMS) doctors are once again on protest as cooling system of hospital in this scorching heat wave is out work.

Due to dysfunctional cooling system patients and doctors lives are at stake. cooling system of ICU, Emergency, Surgical, CCU is not working and maintenance has not been done since various months.

Doctors are on protest because air conditioning of hospital is not working. Doctors who are on protest says when government is aware of heat wave why ventilation system or cooling system was not improved.

Sources told that many life saving medicines, liquids and vaccines are at risk due low temperature in hospital pharmacies whereas patients come to emergency are mostly in pathetic situation.

Hospital spokesperson said hospital is under pressure due to large number of patients coming for treatment daily basis. He said almost 14 thousand patients visit hospital daily. Further he said the problems were temporary and along with that summer got more intense across the country.

However he said medicines and vaccine in hospital pharmacy are save and this impression of risk to medicines is not good.

70% patients comes to PIMS from KP and AJK.

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'School on Wheels' - a much needed project to boost child literacy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Having a high percentage of youth among its population - almost 64% below the age of 30 - Pakistan is blessed to have these numbers, which if utilized properly and given the right direction and platform can put the country on the path of development and prosperity in a matter of years.

Provision of quality education is the prerequisite for a country to produce leaders in different fields, the department in which Pakistan needs to work hard.

With an overall literacy rate of almost 63%, the data shows that it is higher in urban areas (76%) as compared to rural areas (51%), prompting the need to concentrate more on the latter which lacks basic educational infrastructure.

Keeping in view this important issue, the federal coalition government led by Pakistan Muslim League-

Nawaz (PML-N) launched a project named 'School on Wheels' which has been highly praised for providing education to children whose parents are unable to send them to schools.

The initiative would increase the literacy rate in Pakistan, particularly in rural areas. The project also aims to offer equal educational opportunities to children with mobile libraries, which would promote a reading culture among them.

Talking to APP, Deputy Director Research and Development Federal Directorate of Education Muhammad Nadim, who is also looking after the project 'School on Wheels' said, initially, the mobile school project consisted of two buses which were providing primary-level education to children, especially between ages 3-5 of the rural areas including Tarnol and Nilore sectors of Islamabad Capital Territory.

He said five more buses were being prepared whose work was in the final stages and hopefully these buses would start functioning just after Eid ul Adha.

Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding was in pipeline with the British Council under which around 20 more state-of-the-art buses would be provided to the Federal Education Ministry to decrease the number of out-of-school children, he added.

Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain during his visit to a foreign country closely monitored this project and planned it for Pakistan.

In addition to mobile libraries, meals are also being provided to the students enrolled in mobile classrooms, fostering a culture of reading and nourishment.



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

Dysfunction cooling system issue of P'abad hospitals get intense

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

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

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

Economic stability plays vital role to face challenges: Kundi

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The findings suggest that the educational system in GB has been successful in cultivating strong mathematical skills among students. However, in terms of English competency, GB students are slightly behind those in ICT, but perform better than students in AJK. While English proficiency may be an area for improvement, GB students still demonstrate a commendable level of competence in the subject.

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

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

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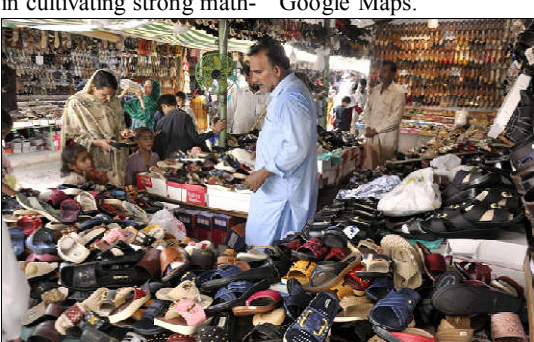
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ISLAMABAD: Women busy in selecting & purchasing sandals during shopping in preparation of upcoming Eid-ul-Azha festival at shoes shop.

The bright-colored buses are decorated with balloons and windows painted with alphabets and cartoons. The inside of the mobile classrooms is bright and clean, its interior filled with images of alphabets, numbers, days of the week and pictures of fruit and animals. Children are seen sitting on colorful chairs inside the bus as teachers use an interactive whiteboard for teaching. Muhammad Nadim further explained that some private organizations like 'Right to Play' were also providing support to the government to make the project successful.

These NGOs provide free teachers besides helping in discipline-related issues, he said, adding, the buses roam specifically in rural areas where no school was nearer particularly attracting minor children for education.

"The buses are focusing on rural areas where schools are far away and minor children are unable to go to schools. After providing basic education, the students will be shifted to nearby schools for proper education", the deputy director mentioned.

He was of the view that children were taking special interest in these schools, particularly afghan refugees living in suburbs of the federal capital territory.

Nadim said each bus would be equipped with computers, desks, whiteboards, Smart Boards, LCDs, ACs and Wash-room.

"I am a daily wager and always wanted my children to get education, but cannot afford sending them to school. This initiative of the government has provided me an opportunity to get my kids educated and that too on my doorstep," said Jamal Ahmed, a father of four children and a resident of Nilore area.

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Independent

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Legal questions

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

It had been a long-running complaint of critics of the current chief justice that he had actively excluded Justice Isa from important benches. Therefore, after his 'surprise' nomination to the bench, many were looking forward to hearing Justice Isa's thoughts on the matter; more so as the honourable justice had, just a day earlier, been confirmed as the next chief justice of Pakistan.

Instead, both Justice Isa and the next senior-most judge, Justice Tariq Masood, chose to abruptly disassociate themselves from the proceedings. Granted that they may have had their reasons not to sit on the bench, but it would seem that, in this case, they missed the forest for the trees.

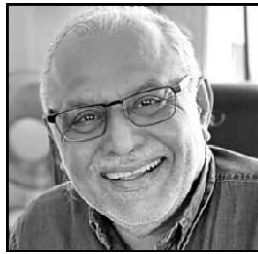
The decision to court-martial civilians is no frivolous matter. It merits a detailed review under the laws of the land, preferably by as many of the best legal minds the country has in its service as possible. The incoming chief justice's differences with the incumbent on various administrative matters of the court are well documented.

They need not have become a reason for two senior-most judges to sit this case out. The state has argued against any debate or discussion over the trials of civilians under military laws, even shutting down attempts to question the grave implications of this practice.

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

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

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

**Abbas Nasir**

With a maximum of seven weeks to go before the existing assemblies are dissolved and a caretaker set-up takes over to preside over the affairs of the country, including nationwide elections, there is still great uncertainty over the emerging scenario.

The uncertainty owes itself in equal measure to the May 9 events as well as the vote of no-confidence (VoNC) against the PTI-led government in April last year. To pre-empt the vote, then prime minister Imran Khan deployed cleverly crafted allegations about a US-backed regime change conspiracy against him.

Before the VoNC, the PTI lost so many by-elections that the PML-N was seen as the frontrunner in any future elections in the country. Once ousted from

government, the PTI unleashed a Trump-like narrative which may have been fabricated and not fact-based, but seemed to have won the party more support than it ever had in the past. The PTI surprised all observers in Punjab and beyond by notching up near-total domination in the Punjab Assembly by-elections, though the double game played by the former army chief may have had a role in that. It was clear that unlike Nawaz Sharif's falling out with the establishment, when the judiciary had been seen to cooperate with it to punish him and no state institution was on his side, Imran Khan was not friendless and alone, with a section of the courts allegedly lending him critical support, along with elements within other key institutions and departments.

The judgement of the Supreme Court of Pakistan on its interpretation of the defection clause, according to many experts, went beyond "mere interpretation" and amounted to the rewriting of the Constitution.

The SC ruled that not only the defecting members would be disqualified as the Constitution mandated but

also that their vote against the party directive would not count. Some political analysts point to that judgement as being at the root of all the political instability today, which has pretty much left the economy crippled. The establishment reacted like only it knows how to. It can be said unambiguously that what may have been a subtle exercise till May 9 last, became a brutal dismantling of the party following the events of that day, when the PTI leadership was led to believe grossly exaggerated accounts of support within the security set-up and overlapped its hand.

The writing is on the wall. The next election will also likely be carefully calibrated like the one in 2018 and will have to produce what former military ruler Gen Ziaul Haq once called "positive results". If that isn't possible to manage in the few weeks remaining before the Constitution-mandated exercise, then the fate of the polls may well be in jeopardy.

Admittedly, not being a legal eagle, this columnist isn't sure how any delay can be effected without violating the Constitution. But then, that poor document looks more and more forlorn than ever, with many of its contents being disregarded at will by various powerful quarters, each one of whom has taken an oath to protect it.

One has heard talk of a declaration of emergency, thus prolonging the tenure of the incumbents by a year; one has also heard "informed" analysts examining the prospects of a longer-than-mandated caretaker government in order to stabilise the economy and enable the establishment to complete the 'scrapping of its failed project', in the words of its critics at least.

Simultaneous with those rumours, the fate of Pakistani politics, and consequently its shirtless multitudes, is also being discussed this weekend in London's plush Mayfair residential district and a couple of opulent country homes, not far from there, with one being in Hampshire. There is every possibility that the game plan for the elections is being fine-tuned. The various elements in any such exercise may include alliances and seat adjustments, as also narrowing

down recommendations for the caretaker government.

As his brother, the prime minister, heads home after reportedly meeting him in London, Nawaz Sharif is all set to fly out of the UK and head to the Middle East, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia said to be on his itinerary for the next three weeks. There is speculation that he may eventually head home. Political commentators have underlined the significance attached to Mr Sharif's return to Pakistan ahead of the elections, even if he has to spend some time in prison. His presence can galvanise support and dilute somewhat the pain of economic hardship suffered by the masses for which both the PTI and PML-N are responsible, but the bulk of the fallout will obviously be on the incumbents.

What we are witnessing today is what was fashioned in 2018, a hybrid set-up, albeit with different characters. If things continue heading in this very direction, then it will be safe to assume that we should prepare ourselves to usher in a similar system post-elections whether held on time or otherwise.

The setting up of the

multi-tiered Special Investment Facilitation Council and deciding who sits on it at various levels is indication enough of the shape of things to come. One can be sure that in the post-election scene it will be desired that a fragmented parliament and, therefore, a weak coalition-type government is formed so that no politician tries to accumulate too much power in their hands and it remains centred elsewhere.

Ironically, contrary to expectations, the failed experiment of the recent years is unlikely to lead to more meaningful representative rule on the rebound, but seems headed to deliver a more diluted democracy. Even then, all who have aspired to a share of that pie seem happy with it. So, here is what I hope for.

The coming months and years should see some economic stabilisation so that the challenges of the poor are lessened, even if marginally. Since the purpose of the disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detentions will have been served, these shall end. For now, wishing for anything more would be too audacious. -- Courtesy Dawn

Back to the future**A tale of two disasters****Ghazi Salahuddin**

First, I have to make this confession that I am unable to bring together my thoughts on the two marine tragedies that relate to Pakistan in a strangely ominous linkage, even though they have happened in distant locations and have made headlines in the global media. I feel overwhelmed by the rush of feelings and opinions about these incidents and it is not possible to deal with them in the space of a column. The sinking of the migrant ship off the Greek coast last week has brought to the surface an entire range of issues, ranging from the desperation of our young men to find refuge in another country to the monstrosity of illegal human trafficking.

The entire episode of how that overcrowded fishing boat capsized in the Mediterranean, on its way

to Italy, became a uniquely Pakistani tragedy because so many of those 700 wretched passengers were Pakistanis. Exact numbers are still not available but more than 200 Pakistanis may have perished in those turbulent waters.

We did have a national day of mourning and a large number of the victims were identified, with an account of how their families were trying to cope with the loss. These were stories with faces and names and a visual representation of the lives they are living. An operation was readily launched against the vile agents who had extorted huge amounts — around Rs50,00,000 and more — to smuggle one young man to Europe.

These are stories we are familiar with, except that the magnitude of the tragedy this time was horrendous. Our media experts have an opportunity to judge the quality of the reporting of this tragedy by our news channels and the newspapers. That it was also covered by the international media may provide some excuse for our top reporters not being there on the scene. But it was our story and we partly missed

it, giving more attention to grieving family members.

Anyhow, there was another marine accident of an entirely different kind in another part of the world that had a larger potential of raising high waves in the global media. A submarine-like craft on an undersea expedition to explore the wreckage of that fabled ship Titanic in the Atlantic Ocean near south eastern Canada went missing. It had five passengers and, by a providential coincidence, two of them belonged to a distinguished Pakistani family.

The juxtaposition of these two marine disasters and the dramatic contrast they provided in the status of those involved and also in the nature of the circumstances in which they happened was bound to attract attention and comment. The two Pakistanis trapped in that 'submersible' named Titan were Shahzada Dawood and his son Suleman.

I wish I could make a diversion here to delve into the lure and the curse of Titanic and the details of how director James Cameron had made that blockbuster 25 years ago. The Titanic wreckage had

figured in the movie and it seems mind-boggling that James Cameron has visited the wreckage of the Titanic 33 times.

I also have a poem, 'Titanic', by David Slavitt, written in 1963 well before the Cameron movie, that begins: "Who does not love the Titanic? / If they sold passage tomorrow for the same crossing / who would not buy?" And the last line: "We all go: only a few first class".

Sadly, there is so much else to focus on. Here, I need to underline the fact that the story of the hundreds who were drowned in the Mediterranean did not get the coverage of the Titan. There were some comments on this disparity on social media in Pakistan. This was to be expected. However, there is this piece by Arwa Mahdawi in The Guardian with this headline: "The Greek shipwreck was a horrific tragedy. Yet it didn't get the attention of the Titanic."

I am tempted to quote its rather longish intro: "Have you heard about the billionaires and multimillionaires trapped on a submersible after

spending up to \$250,000 each to view the wreckage of the Titanic? Of course you have. The story has been headline news in the Anglophone countries ever since the vessel, named the Titan, went missing. Enormous resources have been deployed to try to recover the passengers. Every tiny development has been exhaustively covered. Millions of people, myself included, have been glued to the live blogs and the rolling coverage. And millions of people, myself included, are now newly minted experts on the differences between a submersible and a submarine."

Then, there is this reference to "one of the worst tragedies that has ever occurred on the Mediterranean". A fishing boat carrying about 750 people capsized. "There were 100 children below deck in that ship. One hundred children". The report noted that this coverage "pales in comparison to the attention that's been given to the Titan's disappearance".

More significant was a comment made by former US president Barack Obama in a conference this week. He mentioned the tragedy that was unfolding in the search for the Titan and its minute to minute coverage. He said it was understandable but he noted the fact that it had more attention than 700 people who sank... and his words were drowned in the ovation. I saw the clip on Twitter.

Does this mean that the international media may now provide better coverage to mass tragedies that involve poor and disadvantaged people? Incidentally, citizens of a number of European countries have protested against the treatment of their governments towards illegal migrants and asylum seekers. One such demonstration was held in Greece last week.

As for Pakistan, our media may at least begin to explore why this is not a country for the young. Unemployment and lack of opportunities are valid reasons. But there is no understanding of the kind of freedom that the young, including young women, rightly deserve. You see, there is so much that I have to leave unsaid. -- Courtesy Dawn

A pressing need**Muna Khan**

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

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

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

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

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

One way to make journalism a worthy pursuit is to teach people about the journalists who made it such.

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

collective resistance?

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

**Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry**

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

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

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

Bonhomie?

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

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

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

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

ligious minorities in multiple states.

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

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

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

CM seeks plan to improve livestock, dairy development

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

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

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

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

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

Poultry industry will have to be driven towards latest mechanisation.

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

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

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



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

PPP always strives for ensuring political stability: Tasneem

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

Addressing a gathering here, he said all political parties were sitting together despite ideological differences for the sake of country's economic and political stability and strengthening democracy. The coalition government came to power after removal of former prime minister Imran Khan through a constitutional way to mitigate the sufferings of people amid inflation, unemployment and poverty, Tasneem said.

About sufferings of those affected by floods

last year, Qureshi said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto effectively voiced the miseries of 33 million people of Pakistan at the international forums, who were affected due to devastating floods.

As a result, Pakistan received financial assistance of \$9 billion for the flood affected people's rehabilitation, he added.

Referring to Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto's recent speech in National Assembly, Tasneem dispelled the impression of any strife between Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and said Bilawal Bhutto explained that the basic issue was funds for the flood victims.

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

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

He said that establishing five new passport offices at Pathan Lower Kohistan, Chakdara Lower Dir, Sherinagar Upper Dir, Sherinagar Mardan and Khawazkela Swat was another gift of PML-N government for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Engr Amir Muqam said that political opponents could not mislead the people of Swat anymore as these elements were completely failed to

halted gas projects in Swat to provide the much-needed relief to the people.

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

He said that establishing five new passport offices at Pathan Lower Kohistan, Chakdara Lower Dir, Sherinagar Upper Dir, Sherinagar Mardan and Khawazkela Swat was another gift of PML-N government for the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Engr Amir Muqam said that political opponents could not mislead the people of Swat anymore as these elements were completely failed to

address their problems during nine years long rule of PTI.

He said that Khawazkela road, gas projects at Charbagh, Manglawar and Nawaz Sharif Kidney Hospital Swat were completed by the PML-N govt benefiting millions of people.

Engr Amir Muqam said that feasibility studies for Bisham-Khawazkela expressway had been completed, adding that after completion, it would change the destiny of the people of Malakand division including Swat and Shangla.

He said this mega project was approved by the Nawaz Sharif government and the present government has restarted work on its feasibility.



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

ANP condemns increased target killing incidents in Peshawar

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

The killing of Manmohan Singh in Peshawar is very alarming and condemnable, Provincial President ANP Amil Wali Khan said in a statement issued here Sunday. Dayal Singh was killed in Ramadan, how long these unknown persons will remain unknown, Amil Wali Khan questioned.

The attacks on members of the minority community in a city like Peshawar gives an impression that Peshawar is not safe, Amil Wali Khan said and added, unfortunately, even today, legal action is not being taken against those people

who were accomplices of terrorists.

He condemned the attack on PML-N Provincial President Engineer Amir Makam in Shangla. Thankfully, the provincial president of PML-N was safe in the attack, but how long will this series end, the Provincial President ANP questioned. Everyone of Pakhtunkhwa including police, politicians, army personnel have sacrificed their lives in the war against terrorism, Amil Wali Khan said.

He said that today once again our land was being pushed into the fire of terrorism.

He demanded for taking strict action against those who bring back the terrorists. Instead of political dramas, the protection of people's life and property should be the first priority, which is unfortunately not the case, Amil Wali Khan said.

7 dead, 1235 injured in road accidents in Punjab

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

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

Analysis showed that 599 drivers, 65 underage drivers, 153 pedestrians, and 490 passengers were among the victims of road crashes.

Statistics show that 284 road accidents were reported in Lahore which affected 273 people placing the provincial capital at top of the list followed by 80 in Faisalabad with 81 victims and at third Multan with 70 road accidents and 72 victims.

According to the data, 1028 motorbikes, 80 auto-rickshaws, 114 motorcars, 29 vans, 18 buses, 17 trucks and 102 other types of auto vehicles and slow-moving carts were involved in the road accidents.

Dialysis facility to be available at THQ, hospital Murree from July 15

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary Health Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir has said that dialysis facility would be available to kidney patients at Tehsil Headquarters Hospital (THQ) Murree from July 15. The minister told APP that the hospital's operation theatre would be made functional within a week while the hospital's capacity of 82 beds had been restored.

He said that to overcome the shortage of para-medical staff, 14 more nurses had been appointed for providing quality medical facilities to a large number of visitors and residents at the tourist station.

Ombudsman office provides relief to 23 complainants

LAHORE (APP): The Ombudsman Punjab office provided relief of Rs 64.3 million to 23 complainants from various districts by issuing orders to provincial government departments. In a press statement issued here on Sunday, a spokesman for the provincial ombudsman office said the office successfully resolved the longstanding matter of a family pension for a widow Ms Shaheena, residing in a secluded village within the Kohat district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. After the decision, Ms Shaheena received her remaining pension dues of Rs 182,695 from district accounts office Sargodha.

Furthermore, Ms Najma Mazhar, the

plaintiff from Mandi Bahaudin, has been duly compensated for her deceased husband's employment dues through the intervention of the ombudsman's office. Additionally, her daughter, Ms Mehreen Saba, has also been appointed as a junior clerk in a government department in grade-11, in adherence to Rule 17-A of the Punjab Civil Servants (Appointment & Conditions of Service) Rules, 1974, the spokesman said. Moreover, the spokesman emphasized the commendable efforts undertaken by various district administrations in response to public complaints received by the ombudsman's office.

Dead body found along with motorway

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

The deceased were identified as Meer Gull-a native of Landikotil-KP.



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

Netherlands envoy attends MoU signing ceremony in Lahore

LAHORE (APP): Netherlands Ambassador in Pakistan Henny da Vries attended a ceremony, held here for signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the SBP Khawaja Junaid Hockey Academy and the Almarah Foundation for imparting hockey training to orphan children during the next 10 years.

Hockey Olympian Khawaja Junaid, Chairperson Almarah Foundation Sophiya Warraich, and DIG Police Mehboob Aslam Lillah, were also present at the ceremony, according to a press release, issued on Sunday. Former IGP Punjab Tahir Raza, Olympians Shahbaz Senior, Khalid Bashir, philanthropists and a large number of hockey players and enthusiasts attended the event.

Henny da Vries said sports was a binding force

among societies, and it was admirable that young children would be groomed under the eye of great hockey players.

The Netherlands ambassador also cut a cake to mark 75 years of diplomatic relations of her country with Pakistan at a ceremony, held at the National Hockey Stadium. She said Netherlands and Pakistan enjoyed strong diplomatic relations and she would work to further strengthen bilateral trade and relations. She said: "I am immensely pleased to visit historic city of Lahore and very happy to find myself among little children, who promise a bright future for the country." The Dutch ambassador also lauded the philanthropic work of Almarah Foundation, which had been taking care of more than 100 orphan children and working to ensure a bright future for them.

Mayor vows to resolve long-standing problems of Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): Mayor of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (HMC) Kashif Ali Shoro has said he desired to resolve the long-standing problems of the citizens for at least the last 3 decades.

He was talking to a delegation of the Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders and Small Industry (HCSTSI), led by its President Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, at the Mayor's office here on Sunday. Shoro said he enjoyed the full support of Pakistan Peoples Party's (PPP's) Chairman and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, CO-Chairman Asif Ali Zardari, Faryal Talpur and Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah.

He expressed hope that the corporation would not face any shortage of

funds. He said that the business community of Hyderabad was the major stakeholder of the city and their role in increasing revenue collection in Hyderabad was also commendable.

He assured that his administration would take into account the opinions of the businessmen in all their decisions.

The Mayor observed that the agriculture sector in Hyderabad was the backbone of the district's economy, adding that the sector needed more governmental support for further progress. The HCSTSI's President congratulated the Mayor on his assumption of the office and said being a son of Hyderabad he was supposed to be well familiar with the city's issues.

Driving licence issuance process made easy: IGP

LAHORE (Online): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr Usman Anwar Sunday said that driving licence issuance process in Punjab had been made simplified and made easy. In a press release issued here, he said every Pakistani citizen, who owned a national identity card, could now easily get a licence from any licensing centre in Punjab, and get renewed his/her driving licence from any district of Punjab on its expiry in all districts of the province.

Driving licence issuance process made easy: IGP

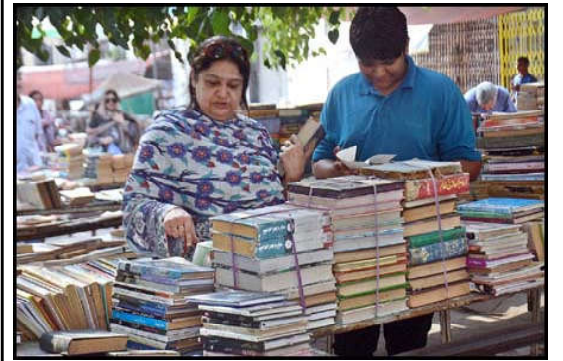
He said a citizen from any region of Pakistan, who had obtained a learner's permit, could appear for the driving test in the district of his job. He said for the first time in the history of Pakistan, now driving licences had been issued to 62 transgender. "Transgenders are also being imparted training at driving schools of Punjab Police," he said and added that the number of driving schools had been increased from 32 to 64 across Punjab.

Sikh citizen murder case filed in CTD

PESHAWAR (Online): Case of Sikh citizen Manmohm Singh murder in Peshawar city filed in Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) Peshawar.

According to police Sikh citizen Manmohm was murdered in Peshawar yesterday, whose case was filed in CTD police station. 7 TAT and 302 sections were added in the case.

It worth mentioning here that Manmohm Singh was killed in Guldera yesterday and 2 days ago another Sikh was also injured in firing.



LAHORE: People busy in selecting and purchasing old books from roadside setup in Provincial Capital.

Protecting youth form using drugs our social responsibility: Mukesh

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister for Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Mukesh Kumar Chawla on Sunday said that it was our collective social responsibility to stop the youth from using drugs. He said that all stakeholders must work together against this curse and discourage drug-peddlers.

He stated this while speaking as the chief guest at a certificates and shields distribution ceremony among the officers and staff of the Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department for their performance against drug peddlers at a local

hotel, according to a communiqué here.

He said that the Excise Department had achieved more than 100 percent tax targets and had taken vigorous action against drug-peddlers in the province. Secretary Excise, Taxation and Narcotics Control Department Sindh Atif Rehman Khan, Director Generals Waheed Sheikh, Aurangzeb Panhwar, all Divisional Directors and other officers were also present on this occasion. Mukesh Kumar Chawla said that drugs were the poison and it was their primary responsibility to stop the youth from using it.



HYDERABAD: Basic Human Rights Organization Leader, Advocate Sibatul-Hassan addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

266 metric tons narcotics seized in 12 months

RAWALPINDI (INP): A total of 266 metric tons of narcotics were seized by the law enforcement agencies of which the ANF accounted for 59 percent of drug seizures, despite problems being faced, he added.

During the last 12 months, ANF registered a total of 1,678 cases and arrested 1,652 accused while 157,551 metric tons of various types of drugs were seized, including 4,379.103 kg of meth, 207.561 kg of amphetamine, 492.094 kg of intoxicated tablets, 32,312.061 liters of various types of prohibited chemicals, he said.

He further informed that additionally,

total of 266 metric tons of narcotics were seized by all law enforcement agencies, of which the ANF accounted for 59 percent of drug seizures, despite problems being faced, he added.

He further informed that additionally,

Pak-China collaborate to promote Pakistan pharma development

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

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

"As Asia leading pharmaceutical show for trading, knowledge sharing and networking, CPHI & PMEC China spans all industry sectors along the pharmaceutical supply chain including APIs, excipients, finished dosage, natural extracts, biopharma & CDMOs, animal health & feed, medical supplies, etc," China Economic Net (CEN) reported.

Waheed, who has been attending the expo since 1995, noted, "CPHI China is becoming more and

more informative due to the major R&D work being carried out in China. China, Pakistan's largest trading partner and the largest producer of API attaches importance to investing in chemical labs and training scientists."

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

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

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

At the expo, Jack, head of a pharmaceutical packaging machinery manufacturing enterprise integrating R & D,

production and sales service told Gwadar Pro, "Pakistan has a huge pharmaceutical market of 250 million people, making it one of the most promising pharmaceutical consumer markets."

The industry has grown rapidly in recent years and its production capacity has greatly increased, as can be told from the fact that the equipment they provide has been upgraded from small and low-speed machinery to large and high-speed machinery.

"We provide guidance on the use and maintenance of the entire production line to help Pakistan master advanced packaging technology," Jack added.

"Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry has a good foundation for cooperation with China. We are in the process of selecting local partners in Pakistan for further cooperation."

According to the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

WAPDA, UAE group make strategic partnership to address Pak energy crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a groundbreaking development, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has committed a substantial investment package to accelerate the adoption of sustainable energy solutions in Pakistan, further strengthening their bilateral ties.

The Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and the private office of Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook AlMaktoum here on Sunday signed two significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) to undertake strategic projects in Pakistan's energy sector.

The first MoU focuses on the development of a floating solar power project of up to 1000MW on existing water reservoirs, while the second MoU aims at rehabilitating, upgrading, and enhancing the capacity of four hydro power projects, namely Renala, Rasul, Chichokmalian, and Nandipur.

Under these agreements, the parties will assess the technical and economic feasibility of the projects and formulate an implementation plan.

Furthermore, they intend to approach the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) promptly to seek a tariff structure for

floating solar power projects. This step is crucial in facilitating the necessary investments outlined in the MoUs and providing support for the planned ventures.

Chairman of WAPDA, Lt. Gen. Sajjad Ghani (Retd), and Sheikh Ahmed Dalmook Al Maktoum have expressed their shared interest and enthusiasm for collaboration on long-term projects in Pakistan's energy sector, specifically emphasizing the development of renewable energy solutions.

The MoUs establish a cooperative framework between the Private Office and WAPDA, facilitating collaboration and exploration of investment opportunities, particularly in WAPDA's small hydro power projects.

The portfolio of the Private Office encompasses a range of privately and publicly held group companies, which primarily operate in sectors such as energy (both conventional and renewable), infrastructure, LNG, oil and commodity trading, healthcare, and agriculture.

In Pakistan, the Private Office has demonstrated its commitment to the energy sector through various investments, including the

Hyderabad Business forum elects its new office bearers

HYDERABAD (APP): A meeting of the office bearers of Hyderabad Business forum held here under chairmanship of its Chairman Mohsin Memon.

Meeting was attended by Senior vice Chairman Zia-u-Din Qureshi, Vice Chairman Khalid Khanzada, General Secretary Fayaz Khan Awan, Additional General Secretary Shehroze Shaikh, Chairman Admin affairs committee Zulfiqar Ali chohan, Members core committee Haji Muhammad Asif Qureshi and Abdul Haque Shaikh.

On this occasion names of newly elected office bearers of Hyderabad Business forum taluka city were announced including patron in-chief Haji hameed Qureshi, Patron Anwer Kundan, President city taluka Jawed Iqbal Raju, Senior Vice President Muhammad Sohail Qureshi, Vice President Faisal Malak, Vice President Muhammad Saleem Akhter, Vice president Haji Muhammad Sidique Memon, General Secretary Muhammad Tarique Shaikh, Additional General Secretary Malik Abdul Shakoor, senior Joint Secretary Asif Insha, Joint secretary Abbas Chandrigar, Joint Secretary Hifz-o-Rehman, Press Secretary Asif Rajput and Treasurer Muhammad Sabih Shaikh.

Promotion of agro-based industry stressed

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

He said agro-industry contributes to GDP, earns foreign exchange through exports, promotes rural development, ensures food security, and adds value to agricultural products.

Talking to a delegation

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

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

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

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



PESHAWAR: Women are busy in shopping at Saddar area in the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha.

Government urged for encouraging furniture Industry

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

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

Cantt Boards advise taxpayers to pay taxes by June 28

RAWALPINDI (APP): Rawalpindi and Chaklala Cantonment Boards have advised the taxpayers to pay their property taxes, conservancy taxes, and water charges for the current year by June 28 and receive a 10 percent discount.

The property owners failing to pay the taxes and other charges by the deadline would be facing monetary penalties. According to an RCB spokesman, "The board have sent all the outstanding bills to its taxpayers. However, the individuals who did not receive these bills could contact the RCB main office or RCB Care Centre to avail of the 10 percent discount on taxes."

For more information and queries about the discount on property tax and other RCB-related matters, the residents could contact the board office, he added.

He informed that special arrangements had been made to facilitate the taxpayers.

He further informed that RCB on the directives of the Cantonment Executive Officer (CEO) had started a survey to

Efforts afoot to expand tax network, growth rate: Kiyani

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

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

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

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

He said the tough agreement was made by the PTI regime and the people are facing a difficult time due to the weak policies of Imran's party.

To a question about the 9th review program of IMF, he said, we hope to make soft agreements with IMF. He said that the government had fulfilled the promises made with IMF and completed all requirements demanded by IMF.



QUETTA: Vendor sells Barbeque rods, oven, coals and wooden logs to earn his livelihood for support his family in connection of Eid-ul-Azha coming ahead, in Quetta.

ICCI for further strengthening trade ties with Japan

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

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

Ahsan Zafar said that there are many possibilities for further

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

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

Meher Kashif says: SMEs contribute significantly in economic growth

LAHORE (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis called for promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) which contribute significantly to economic growth and the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any country.

Addressing a seminar on "Role of SMEs in Economic Growth" arranged by Gold Ring Economic

Forum, a strategic think-tank, here Sunday, Meher Kashif said that all developed

countries like Japan, Korea, China and Taiwan became super economic powers through their SMEs. Industrial revolution could change the fate of Pakistan, therefore, supporting and nurturing the growth of SMEs was crucial for sustainable and inclusive economic development and jobs creation, he said and asserted, "The cumulative impact on GDP could be substantial, as they collectively account for a significant portion of economic activity."



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

Ifthikhar Malik says: Pakistan's location ideal for regional connectivity

LAHORE (APP): Former president of SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry Ifthikhar Ali Malik said that Pakistan's geo-strategic location ideal for connecting Central Asian countries via sea routes offers better and effective regional economic integration, besides boosting trilateral trade.

Talking to a delegation of industrialists led by Muslim Khan Bunerhi here on Sunday, he said that Central Asia states were landlocked and Pakistan's ideal location could

provide these countries a hassle-free short route to sea for their import and export goods handling.

He said, "Pakistan can also comfortably facilitate Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries in providing regional connectivity which will promote trade among member countries and even beyond."

He said, the transport corridors and logistics infrastructure could benefit all member states leading to win-win cooperation.



QUETTA: President Anjuman Tajiran Balochistan Rahim Agha, Wali Afghan in a meeting with President Anjuman Tajiran Sariab Zone Sardar Sajid Shahwani, Mir Zubair Lehri, Malik Muhammad Hussain Shahwani and others

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



Police cordon off the Gröna Lund amusement park in Stockholm.

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

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: Afghanistan's supreme leader claimed on Sunday that the country's women were being saved from "traditional oppressions" by the adoption of Islamic governance and their status as "free and dignified human beings" restored.

In a statement marking this week's Eidul Azha holiday, Hibatullah Akhundzada — who rarely appears in public and rules by decree from the Taliban's birthplace in Kandahar — said steps had

been taken to provide women with a "comfortable and prosperous life according to Islamic Shariah."

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

Since returning to power in August 2021, Taliban authorities have stopped girls and women from attending high school or university, banned them from parks, gyms, and public baths.

Russian jets said to step up strikes on Syrian rebel enclave

Monitoring Desk
AMMAN: Russian jets bombed villages and towns near the northwestern Syrian city of Idlib on Sunday, killing at least nine civilians and wounding dozens in a major flare-up of violence in the country's last opposition stronghold, witnesses said.

War planes flying at high altitude, which tracking centres said were Russian Sukhoi jets, dropped bombs on a vegetable market in Jisr al-Shughour while it was crowded with shoppers ahead of the Muslim Eid feast, leaving at least nine dead and 30 injured, the Western-backed White Helmets emergency response group said.

Witnesses and rescuers said jets also hit villages in the mountainous Jabal al Zawya region and the western outskirts of Idlib city, which fall within a buffer zone carved out by Russia and Turkey that ended major fighting nearly five years ago.

No immediate comment was available from Russia or its allies in the Syrian army, whose artillery pounded rebel areas in the countryside west of Aleppo.

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

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

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

Heavily armed Russian mercenaries who advanced

most of the way to Moscow this weekend halted their approach, de-escalating a major challenge to President Vladimir Putin's grip on power, in a move their leader said would avoid bloodshed.

North Korea has sought to forge closer ties with the Kremlin and backed Moscow after it invaded Ukraine last year, blaming the "hegemonic policy" of the United States and the West. Im also said he believed the Russian army would "overcome trials and ordeals and heroically emerge victorious in the special military operation against Ukraine," according to KCNA.

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

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

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

Police initially said about 200 people were in the area of the party and that officers had been dispersing the crowd prior to the shooting, MLive.com reported.

Three people also were struck by cars and injured as people quickly fled from the gunshots, WNEM-TV reported. Investigators determined five different guns had been fired in the shooting.

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

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

Overlooking the old wharf in Charleston at which nearly half of the enslaved population first entered North America, the 150,000-square-foot (14,000-square-meter) museum houses exhibits and artifacts exploring how African Americans' labor, perse-

verance, resistance and cultures shaped the Carolinas, the nation and the world.

It also includes a genealogy research center to help families trace their ancestors' journey from the point of arrival on the land. The opening happens at a time when the very idea of Black people's survival through slavery, racial apartheid and economic oppression being quintessential to the American story is being challenged throughout the U.S.

Leaders of the museum said its existence is not a rebuttal to current attempts to suppress history, but rather an invitation to dialogue and discovery.



Anti-abortion activists march outside of the U.S. Capitol during the March for Life in Washington.

US firms pump money in India as Biden eyes geopolitical goals

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Amazon and Google are the latest companies to announce massive investment plans in India amid US President Joe Biden's efforts to "send a message to China" by cementing India's position as a close ally.

Amazon said on Friday it will take its investments in India to \$26 billion by 2030, adding \$6.5bn in new planned investments in an announcement made after CEO Andy Jassy met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the United States.

Though Jassy gave no breakdown, the announcement follows Amazon's cloud computing unit Amazon Web Services saying last month it will invest INR1.06tr in the country by the end of 2030.

The e-commerce giant's announced investment during Modi's trip adds to other companies, including US semiconductor toolmaker Applied Materials and memory

chip firm Micron Technology, which have made commitments during the Indian premier's state visit.

Separately, Google will open a global fintech operation centre at GIFT City in India's western state of Gujarat, with teams working on operations supporting its payment service GPay, and other product operations at Google, the company said in a statement.

"We shared Google is investing \$10 billion in the India digitisation fund, and we are continuing to invest through that," CEO Sundar Pichai told reporters in a video shared on Twitter by Reuters partner ANI company.

On the final day of his trip, Modi met US and Indian technology executives, including Apple's Tim Cook, Google's Pichai and Microsoft's Satya Nadella and appealed to global companies to "Make in India".

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

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

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

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

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

weeks and months ahead," Blinken told NBC's "Meet the Press" program.

Blinken described the turmoil as an "internal matter" for Putin.

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

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

"It may be that Putin didn't want to debase himself to the level of negotiating directly with Prigozhin," Blinken said.

Forces led by Prigozhin, a former Putin ally and conflict, have fought the bloodiest of battles in Russia's 16-month war in Ukraine.

"To the extent that

the Russians are distracted and divided it may make their prosecution of aggression against Ukraine more difficult," Blinken told ABC's "This Week" program.

Blinken said neither the United States nor the Russian nuclear posture had changed as a result of the crisis.

U.S. Senator Ben Cardin said the weekend turmoil in Russia does not ease Washington's need to continue aiding Ukraine as it launches its long-awaited counteroffensive against Russia.

"This is a critical time for Ukraine. This counter-offensive is going to be defining as to where we're going to be in the next year or two," Cardin, a Democrat who sits on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told Fox News. "So it's incredibly important that we maintain our support and not be fooled by what's happening in Russia today as to the needs of the Ukrainians."

Putin has 'lost his credibility with his own people': Cardin

Monitoring Desk
SEN. BEN CARDIN (D-Md.) said on Sunday that the armed rebellion from the Wagner Group shows Russian President Vladimir Putin's power is waning among his people.

In an interview with Shannon Bream on "Fox News Sunday," Cardin pointed to the rebellion by Yevgeny Prigozhin's Wagner Group as evidence of Putin's declining credibility, even among his longtime allies.

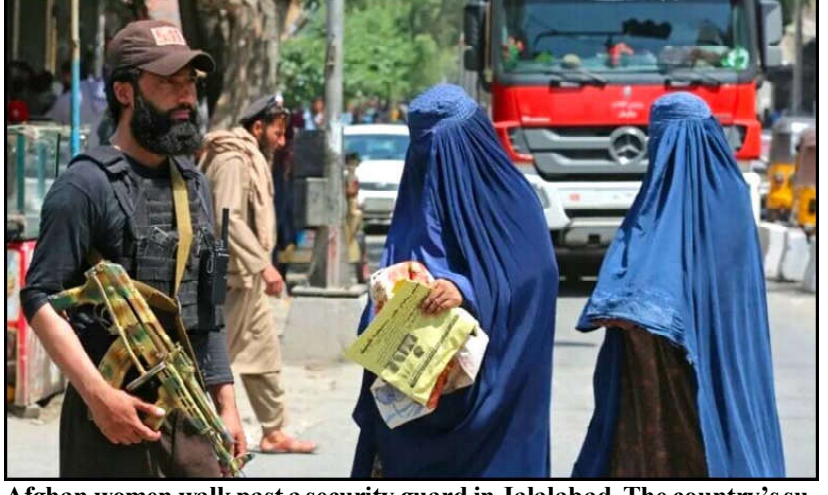
"Putin has lost his credibility with his own people. His account of why he went into Ukraine is now being challenged, I think, with public opinion and Russia itself," Cardin told Bream.

Prigozhin is the owner of the Wagner Group, which is a Kremlin-aligned private army of mercenaries and inmate recruits that has led some of Russia's most brutal battles in Ukraine. Prigozhin is a long-time Putin ally and has benefited from the relationship in a variety of ways.

On Friday, however, Prigozhin escalated his criticism of Putin's war in Ukraine and called for the ouster of Russia's defense minister, Sergei Shoigu. Prigozhin-led Wagner Group fighters left Ukraine, where they had been fighting, and crossed into Russia. Despite Prigozhin's pledge to "destroy anyone who stands in our way," an agreement was ultimately reached with Belarus and Prigozhin ordered his troops to stop the advance.

In recent months, Prigozhin's criticism of Russia's war has also been escalating. On Friday, he released a viral video that denounced Putin's explanation of the war as false and accused Russian oligarchs of being responsible for the war. In a subsequent video, he also accused the Russian military of attacking his group's campsite and killing many of his fighters.

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Afghan women walk past a security guard in Jalalabad. The country's supreme leader says the Taliban government has saved women from 'traditional oppressions'.

One killed, several injured in roller coaster accident in Sweden

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: One person was killed and several were injured in a roller coaster accident at the Gröna Lund amusement park in the Swedish capital on Sunday, the TT news agency reported, citing a park spokesperson.

Public broadcaster SVT, citing eyewitnesses, said the park's Jetline roller coaster had partly derailed during a ride. Police said they were still investigating. "We are emptying the park and we've started our investigation," a police spokesperson said.

The Gröna Lund park was not immediately available for comment. The steel-tracked Jetline roller coaster reaches a speed of up to 90 kilometres per hour (56 mph).

Airstrike hits busy market in opposition-held northwestern Syria and kills at least 9 people

Monitoring Desk
JISR AL-SHUGHUR: An airstrike early Sunday over a busy vegetable market in northwestern Syria killed at least nine people, activists and local first responders said.

Activists and Britain-based opposition war monitor the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that Russia, a top ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, launched the strike over the strategic opposition-held town of Jisr al-Shughur near the Turkish border.

The strike comes a day after Moscow's top mercenary group briefly revolted against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Opposition-held northwestern Syria's civil defense organization known as the White Helmets said over 30 people were wounded, and expected the death toll to increase.

"We're hearing that the critically wounded have been dying after reaching the hospital," Ahmad Yaziji of the White Helmets told The Associated Press.

Greek conservatives take commanding lead in new vote - exit poll

Monitoring Desk
ATHENS: Greece's conservative New Democracy party held a commanding lead in Sunday's parliamentary election, an exit poll showed, with former Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis set to clinch a second term in office.

New Democracy was leading with 40-44% of the vote, with the leftist Syriza trailing at 16.1-19.1%, the exit poll conducted jointly by six polling companies for Greek TV stations showed.

A projection, based on early results, is expected at between 1730 and 1800 GMT Sunday's vote is the second in the past five weeks, as a first poll on May 21, held under a different electoral system, failed to give a single party absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament. The system used in Sunday's poll gives the leading party bonus seats depending on voter support. In

the May poll, New Democracy held a double-digit lead of 20 points ahead of Syriza, which ruled Greece from 2015 to 2019.

Opinion polls in recent days had shown New Democracy winning with around 40% of the vote, with Syriza headed by Alexis Tsipras on about 20%, roughly similar to the May 21 poll. Mitsotakis, who was prime minister from 2019 until stepping down in favour of a caretaker premier following the inconclusive May vote, has vowed to push ahead with reforms to rebuild the country's credit rating following a debilitating debt crisis which wracked the nation for a decade. A former banker and scion of a powerful political family, Mitsotakis has promised to boost revenue from the vital tourist industry, create jobs and increase wages to near the European Union average.

US engineers contributed to Missouri River flood damage and must pay landowners, court rules

Monitoring Desk
OMAHA: The U.S. government may have to pay tens of millions of dollars — or more — to landowners along the Missouri River after a court ruled it worsened flooding there since 2007 that killed crops and wrecked homes and businesses.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit upheld a lower court's 2020 ruling that the federal government must pay for the landowners' loss of value to the land. But the appeals court went even further in its decision last Friday, saying that the government must also pay them for crops, farm equipment and buildings lost to the flooding and finding the government contributed to the devastating flood of 2011.

Courts have found the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responsible for recurrent flooding since 2007, three years after it changed how it manages the Missouri River's flow to better protect the habitat of endangered fish and birds. It did so by notching dikes to increase water flow, keeping more water in reservoirs and reopening historic

chutes, allowing the river to meander and erode banks.

Farmers, businesses and other landowners say that unconstitutionally deprived them of their land. The courts have largely agreed, finding that the government violated constitutional protections against taking property without just compensation. That Fifth Amendment protection is often seen in cases of eminent domain, which allows a government to seize private property, with compensation, for a public purpose.

Federal officials argue that the changes the Corps made were necessary to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act and a separate requirement from Congress passed in 1986 to protect fish and wildlife.

The ruling comes as federal and state officials wrestle with the rising costs of floods made more severe by climate change, and droughts that will require tough water management choices. It's the sort of conflict that will only worsen—and become more expensive, said James Elliott, a sociology professor at Rice University whose focus is on the confluence of human society and the environment.

Israel reboots fiercely opposed judicial campaign

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli lawmakers on Sunday began debating a bill that would limit the Supreme Court's powers, rebooting a fiercely opposed judicial overhaul instigated by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's religious-nationalist coalition.

Anti-government demonstrations had prompted Netanyahu to suspend his judicial drive in March to allow compromise talks with opposition parties. He declared those talks fruitless last week and ordered some of the legislation to be revived. The proposed changes, which included curbs on the court's ability to rule against the government.

Largest Hajj pilgrimage in history' begins in Saudi Arabia

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

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

"This year, we will

witness the largest Hajj pilgrimage in history," if things go according to plan, predicted an official with the Saudi Ministry of Haj and Umrah.

"The numbers will exceed 2.5 million pilgrims," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorised to speak with the press.

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

lims pray towards every day.

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

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

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

A series of rites are completed over four days in Makkah and its sur-

roundings in the west of oil-rich Saudi Arabia.

On Sunday night, pilgrims will start moving to Mina, about five kilometres (three miles) from the Grand Mosque, ahead of the Haj's climax at Mount Arafat, where the Prophet Mohammed (SAW) is believed to have delivered his final sermon.

Mina, the world's largest tent city, readied to receive the influx of pilgrims on Sunday, with food supplies brought in and security forces deployed around the area.



QUETTA: A view of deserted look of markets and streets due to heat waves across the country.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar condoling with Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on sad demise of his aunt

Balochistan CM directs secretaries to attend budget meeting

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenji has directed the secretaries of all provincial government departments to ensure their presence in the budget session of provincial assembly continued these days in Quetta.

In this regard, the Chief Minister has issued directives to all the secretaries through Chief Secretary to take the budget session serious.

He said that the budget session used to be an important phase for approval of the budget, as such all the secretaries

should take the session seriously.

The Chief Minister further directed the secretaries to note all the points raised by the members of assembly during the session while remaining present in the session.

He also asked the administrative secretaries of departments to come in the session with complete preparation of the figures of development and non-development budget regarding their respective departments.

He also directed the Chief Secretary to take action against the secretaries who didn't participate in the budget session.

NA approves 15 excess demands for FY 2021-22

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

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

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

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

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

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

He said the lesson he (Imran Khan) imparted to

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

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

Pak-Kazakh BPC in Astana to review entire spectrum of bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Second Round of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) between Pakistan and Kazakhstan will be held in Astana, Kazakhstan on June 26 in which the two sides will review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations.

Additional Secretary (Afghanistan & West Asia) Syed Ahsan Raza Shah will lead Pakistan side while Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kanat Tumyst will lead the

Kazakh side, Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release on Sunday.

"During consultations both sides will review the entire spectrum of bilateral relations in political, trade, economic, connectivity, science & technology, cultural and people to people relations to strengthen the deep-rooted fraternal ties between Pakistan and Kazakhstan with a view to foster closer cooperation for the mutual benefit of their people," the spokesperson added.

DG Levies orders "forced retirement" of two Levies personals

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Director General Levies force Balochistan, Naseebullah Khan has issued order of forced retirement of two Levies personals of Zhob with immediate effect.

According to an official hand out issued here on Sunday, the order of forced retirement of Levies Dafadar Bahar Khan and Risaldar Zaman Khan was issued by the Director General on recommendation of the Inquiry Officer conducting inquiry into the alleged interference in the recruitment process of Levies in Zhob district.

The Levies personals

were posted for security on occasion of the physical test and interviews at the Truck addah Zhob some time back.

According to the inquiry, both the Levies personals were found involved in creating hurdle in the recruitment process using unjustified methods.

Thus, the DG Levies issued order of their forced retirement under disciplinary rules, 2015's section 4(1) (b) (II).

Moreover, the DG also issued orders of the forced retirement of four other Levies personals under the disciplinary rules in Zhob.



QUETTA: Activists of BNP-Mengal hold protest in favor of their demands in front of the Quetta Press Club.

Zia grieved over death of aunty of Sanjrani

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has expressed grief and sorrow over the death of aunty of Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani.

In a condolence statement issued here on Sunday, Mir Ziaullah Langove prayed that may Allah Almighty rest the departed soul into its eternal peace and give patience to the bereaved family to bear the tragic loss of her death.

Budget process in NA witnesses active participation of MPs

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a highly productive 51st session, the National Assembly (NA) successfully approved the federal budget for the fiscal year 2023-24.

Commencing on March 27, the session witnessed the presentation of the Finance Bill, 2023 on June 9, 2023, sparking a thorough and engaging debate on the budget.

The House, after incorporating numerous recommendations from the Senate, passed the Finance Bill, 2023, alongside the adoption of four resolutions addressing significant issues. The formal budget debate commenced on June 12, with the Leader of the Opposition initiating discussions on the federal budget in accordance with parliamentary tradition.

According to the data compiled through the website of NA and observation of proceedings, a substantial number of lawmakers actively participated in the debate, with around 86 out of 174 NA members lending their voices to the discussions—a significant increase compared to previous years.

It is noteworthy that the incumbent 15th NA comprises 174 members, excluding the Speaker, who plays an impartial role as the custodian of the 342-member House. During the debate, female parliamentarians played a particularly active role, with 22 female MNAs, accounting for 49% of their representation, expressing their views on the Finance Bill for a combined duration of seven hours and 27 minutes. Likewise, 64 male lawmakers, representing 50% of male participants, voiced their perspectives on the Finance Bill and the Senate's recommendations for more than 22 hours. Throughout the budget process, Minister for Finance and Revenue Ishaq Dar, along with State Minister for Finance Dr Aisha Ghaus Pasha, consistently attended the sessions, effectively addressing the concerns raised by lawmakers. Both the ruling party and its allies, recognizing the government's efforts to prepare an efficient budget amidst rigorous economic challenges, voiced their support.

Asad Mehmood calls for review of FATA merger

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

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

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

He urged government officials to personally visit the area and assess the ground realities to gain a

comprehensive understanding.

Regarding the ongoing discussions about appointments with Pakistan Post, the minister clarified that the matter is currently under review by the committee.

He assured the House that details of the findings will be shared once the committee concludes its deliberations.

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

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

Proudly highlighting

the achievements of the Pakistan Post, the minister emphasized the organization's remarkable progress under the diligent efforts of its officers.

Notably, Pakistan Post has successfully overcome financial deficits and received international recognition for its accomplishments.

Minister Mehmood also emphasized the expansion of road networks and motorways throughout the country, resulting in improved connectivity for the citizens.

The Minister revealed that approximately 50 new projects have been included in the current Public Sector Development Program (PSDP), showcasing the government's commitment to national development.



QUETTA: Provincial Minister Mir Sikandar Umrani and Parliamentary Secretary Khalil George meeting with Deputy Speaker Balochistan Assembly Sardar Babar Khan Musakhail

Special counter to be set up for aged persons at NADRA center Zhob

Independent Report

QUETTA: Two new counters would be set up at the NADRA center Zhob. This was announced by the Director Operation NADRA, Syed Shahabhat during his visit to NADRA center the other day.

During the visit, the Director Operations reviewed the issues being faced by the people particularly the elderly persons at the center.

He listened the problems of the people seeking the CNUCs at the Zhob NADRA center.

He directed the concerned staff to resolve the issues ensuring transparency in all the related affairs.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Operation said that the NADRA is determined to provide relief to the masses. He also said that it is the top priority of NADRA to resolve the public issues so that they may benefit from its services.

He warned that no lenience and negligence would be tolerated with anyone in this regard.

Three-day NYS draws students from Balochistan, rest of country

QUETTA (APP): A three-day National Youth Summit (NYS) was organized here in which a large number of students belonging to Balochistan province and different districts of Pakistan, participated.

The event was arranged under the theme "Harnessing Youth Potential for Resilient Future, Navigating Challenges, Driving Change" at the Balochistan University of Engineering and Management Sciences (BUITEMS), a press release on Sunday said.

On the occasion different speakers including Balochistan Minister for

Sports & Youth Affairs Khaliq Hazara, Ishaq Jamali secretary sports, Babar Yousafzai coordinator to CM Balochistan, Nawabzada Jamal Raisani coordinator Youth Affairs, Hanna Malik project manager, Balochistan chief SMEA, Sanaullah Baloch MPA, Abdullah Gul Presidential Tehreek e Jawanan e Pakistan, Senator Kabir Muhammad Shahi, Yasmeen Lehri former MPA and Romina Khurshid Alam SAPM & Convener SDGs Task Force, expressed their views. They informed that events of National Youth Summit would be organised all over the province.



QUETTA: Sacrificial animals are being selling at a roadside for the upcoming festival Eid-ul-Azha, at Jail road.

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

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

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

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

SAPM, Romina Khurshid Alam in her remarks said the friendship between China and Pakistan is very close to the heart of every Pakistani. "China believes in peace and prac-

tically demonstrated it as it has been visible in Saurian ties, Afghanistan and for Pakistan China always supported and stood beside in testing times," she added.

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

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

Deputy Minister of Economy, Afghanistan, Dr Abdul Latif Nazari was the guest of honour via video link whereas Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) and Convener National SDGs taskforce, Romina Khurshid Alam was the chief guest.

Talha personally pays 14,350 Saudi Riyals for Hajj expenses

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

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



QUETTA: Regional Head Federal Ombudsman Ghulam Sardar Barohi addressing an Open Kutchery organized by National Party in Mariabad

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Expanding the scope of investigation in 'Broad-sheet Case' federal govt has contacted Interpol to bring back three people including former chairman NAB Naveed Hassan.

These people are alleged of \$28 million illegal payment.

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

Federal government will bring back these people via Interpol.

NAB's former position holder woman is also wanted in this case.

Federal Investigation Agency will carry this case to logical conclusion.

27-men AJK Cabinet sworn in

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

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

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

On this occasion, Secretary Services and General Administration Raja Amjad Pervaz read out the notifi-

cation of the new batch of ministers.

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