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

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

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

The Plan was unveiled during a high-level meeting chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and attended by the Chief of Army Staff (COAS), chief ministers, federal and provincial ministers, and high-level government officials, a PM Office press release said. The Eco-

nomics Revival Plan envisages capitalizing Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors of defence production, agriculture, livestock, minerals, mining, information technology and energy, through indigenous development as well as investments from friendly countries.

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

The setup will shorten heretofore cumbersome and lengthy business processes

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

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

The COAS, speaking on the occasion, assured the Pakistan Army's all-out

support to complement the government's efforts for Economic Revival Plan, considered fundamental to socio-economic prosperity of Pakistan and reclaiming Pakistan's rightful stature among the comity of nations.

Prime Minister Shehbaz recalled that his government inherited an economy which was on the brink of collapse. With bold and difficult decisions, it was now being steered towards growth and development, however, there were massive challenges ahead, he added.

He said export-oriented foreign direct investments held the key to economic

revival and the government had, therefore, decided to adopt a holistic/whole-of-government approach which fostered partnerships within the federal and provincial governments for effective implementation and execution. The investors would be given primacy and fast-track approvals, through a well-coordinated approach, he added.

The prime minister observed that the expected investments would create jobs and livelihoods for the youth and women, and advised that the focus should be on empowering young and females to realise their full potential.



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

Appointment of 250 employees in PIA case:

When there is no aeroplane how operation will run: SC

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

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

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

Contempt of EC case: ECP decides to indict Imran Khan others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has rejected PTI objections in contempt of Election Commission (EC) case.

A 4-member bench of ECP has decided to indict Imran Khan and other leaders.

A 4-member bench of ECP including member Nisar Durrani has announced reserved judgment of contempt of EC case.

The ECP while rejecting PTI objections has decided to indict PTI chairman Imran Khan and other leaders.

Faisal Chaudhry counsel for PTI said I have appeared on behalf of all respondents. The previous order was not received to me.

Member EC Nisar Durrani said who is answerable has not appeared in EC so far. Faisal Chaudhry said I am filing his absence application.

Barrister Aitzaz, Latif Khosa meets CJP

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

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

PPP leaders requested the CJP to fix the petition for early hearing.

The sources said the prevailing situation in the country and other legal matters came under discussion.

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

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

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

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The court adjourned the hearing of the case till July 05.



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

Rescue teams race to find missing sub, with 2 Pakistan on board, near Titanic wreck

ISLAMABAD (Online): The US Coast Guard said late on Monday that its search for a missing submersible vessel, with two Pakistanis on board, near the Titanic wreck had been completed for the day but that a national guard unit and the company operating the five-passenger underwater mission would continue scouring the surface overnight.

The 21-foot craft, operated by OceanGate Expeditions, began its descent on Sunday but lost contact with the surface less than two hours later, according to authorities.

The US Coast Guard said it had launched two planes to survey the remote area in the North Atlantic, while its Canadian counterparts had also sent a plane and a ship.

But with no reported sightings of the vessel or communication signals throughout the day, the US Coast Guard's Boston-based unit said in a tweet around 9:00pm (0100

GMT on Tuesday) that its flights for the day "have been completed".

"The Polar Prince and Rescue106 will continue to do surface searches throughout the evening," the tweet said, referring to the research ship that launched the submersible, and a US Air National Guard unit, respectively.

Searches by Canadian aircraft, which had been using buoys to scan underneath the surface, will continue Tuesday morning, it added.

Businessman Shahzada Dawood and his son, Suleman, were also on board, their family said in a statement. The statement said the father and son had planned the journey to visit the remnants of the Titanic shipwreck.

Shahzada is the vice chairman of one of Pakistan's largest conglomerates, Engro Corporation, which has investments in fertilisers, vehicle manufacturing, energy and digital technologies.



QUETTA: Provincial Ministers meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo

Congress of US writes an open letter to Biden ahead of Modi's visit to Washington

Points out towards issues of shrinking of political space, rise of religious intolerance, targeting of civil society organisations and journalists and growing restrictions on press freedoms and internet access

ISLAMABAD: The Congress of US writes an open letter to Biden ahead of Modi's visit to Washington.

Dear President Biden: We write in advance of your meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming visit to the United States. As the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy, the United States and India have forged a close relationship based on strategic interests and shared democratic values. India is an important member of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the "Quad") and a crucial partner for stability in the Indo-Pacific. We support the trip Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin took to New Delhi earlier this month to finalize a "Roadmap for U.S.-India Defense Industrial Cooperation," deepening our strategic partnership.

Trade and investment between the United States

and India continue to grow, and there is an opportunity to greatly expand our economic ties. We welcome India's potential increased role in secure supply chains for critical sectors such as semiconductors and pharmaceuticals.

And robust cultural engagement lies at the heart of our friendship, underscored by the immense contributions of the Indian-American diaspora community in the United States, many of whom still have close and extended family living in India. We trust and expect that these important dimensions of the U.S.-India partnership - strategic, economic and cultural - will be part of your discussion when you meet directly with Prime Minister Modi.

As longtime supporters of a strong U.S.-India relationship, we also believe that friends can and should discuss their differences in an honest and forthright way.

Erdogan phones Shehbaz, express grief over deaths of Pakistanis in boat accident near Greece

ISLAMABAD (Online): Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan telephoned Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and expressed grief and sorrow over the deaths of Pakistanis in a boat accident in Mediterranean Sea near Greece.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan extended his condolences to the bereaved families on behalf of Turkish government and people, and prayed for the departed souls.

Bilawal, Greece FM discuss ferry tragedy

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that he had a useful telephonic conversation with Foreign Minister of Greece Vassilis Kaskarelis and agreed to closely work together to facilitate Pakistanis in distress and for the identification and repatriation of retrieved bodies.

During the conversation, they discussed the tragic ferry disaster off the coast of Greece, the foreign minister posted on his Twitter handle.

Pakistan, Russia agree to further diversify bilateral ties

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

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

Special Representative on Afghanistan, Ambassador Zamir Kabulov was also part of the Russian

delegation.

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

World Refugee Day celebrated: Issue of refugees should be resolved at international level, insists Governor

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that refugees issue is an international issue and as such it should be addressed at international level.

The Governor was addressing a ceremony arranged by UNHCR marking the World Refugee Day here at a local hotel on Tuesday.



It may be mentioned here that World Refugee Day is observed all over the world including Pakistan on June 20, every year. The senior officials of the UNHCR as well as the Commissioner Afghan Refugees, Arbab Talib, Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan, Professor Dr. Shafiqur Rehman and other concerned quarters were present at the ceremony. The representatives of Afghan refugees residing in Quetta and different other parts of the province also participated in the event.

He appreciated the endeavours of UNHCR for relief and rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees. He pointed out that the local population is also getting affected along with the refugees, therefore there is a dire need to take concrete steps by the international relief agencies for compensating the local settlements.

He recalled that the prolonged civil war started after 1980 in Afghanistan in the wake of war between America and Soviet Union on one hand, while the refugees were forced to migrate in Pakistan from the neighboring at large scale.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a virtual meeting with H.E. Andrew Mitchell, British Minister of State in the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO).

Dar begs help from British HC for IMF deal

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

British High Commissioner will talk to IMF about restoration of program.

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

In meeting Ishaq Dar informed British High

Commissioner about economic situation and suspension of IMF program.

Source told that Ishaq Dar requested British High Commissioner to help for IMF deal.

British High Commissioner assured Ishaq Dar over his help to make IMF deal.

British High Commissioner will talk about restoring IMF program.

Finance minister held meetings with ambassadors of many country after failure in negotiation with IMF.

Two soldiers martyred in IED explosion in N. Waziristan

PESHAWAR (APP): Two soldiers were martyred in IED explosion at Spinwam at North Waziristan on Tuesday, according to ISPR, an improvised explosive device (IED) exploded in the general area of Spinwam, North Waziristan District on Tuesday. Resultantly, Sepoy Gul Rauf (age 29 years, r/o District Lakkhi Marwat) and Sepoy Abid Ullah (age 23 years, r/o District Karak) embraced martyrdom (shahadat).

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai has revealed that he has not received the arrears of Rs. 55 billion payable against the Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL) yet, however, the federal government has assured us to release the same (arrears) by end of this financial year.

He said that we have not levied any new tax in the provincial budget presented for the next financial year the other day, despite the financial challenges.

The Finance Minister was addressing post-budget briefing at the Sikandar Jamali Auditorium in Civil Secretariat on Tuesday.

Also present on the occasion was the spokesperson, Government of Balochistan, Ms. Farah Azeem Shah.

The Finance Minister said that the total volume of the next financial year budget is Rs. 750 billion with deficit of Rs. 49 billion. However, we have reduced the deficit in the budget as compared to current financial year. He said that we have not levied any new

Provincial Minister Finance post budget briefing: Federal Govt. assured to release Rs. 55 billion payable against PPL by June 30, 2023

Zamarak Achakzai says no amount was lapsed during current financial year; no development scheme allotted to any un-elected person; budget deficit reduced

tax in the budget, rather we have proposed to reduce some 43 kinds of other taxes including education and health.

He on the occasion highlighted certain achievements made by the provincial government. He said that successful holding local bodies elections, national Games and population census in the province are our major achievements.

He said that there are vast opportunities for investment, but adding he regretted that the investors are not allowed to come to Balochistan despite im-



provement in law and order situation.

To a query, the Minister Finance said that no amount was lapsed during

the current financial year. He said that we have utilized Rs. 127 billion during the current financial year.

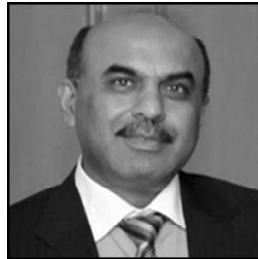
Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Health for all

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

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

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



Naseer Memon

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

Having the same trajectory and climatic features, Biparjoy brought to mind Cyclone 2A that battered Pakistan's coastal communities in 1999. The UN estimated that the cyclone killed 189 people while 150 were missing.

More than 138,000 houses collapsed, and 675 boats disappeared. Some 15,000 cattle heads and sheep died. And 256,000 hectares (approximately 633,000 acres) of land was affected.

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

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

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

A close call

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Education & EQ



Nazir A. Jogezaei

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

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

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

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

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

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

Commerce News



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

IT Ministry showcases remarkable performance in past five years: Minister

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

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

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

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

According to the project, the exchanges of NTC will be converted to IP (Internet Protocol) and optical fiber cables from TDM (Time Division Multiplexing) and copper wires from May 2018 to June 2020. The project has been successfully completed, and the related exchanges are functioning efficiently.

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

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

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

Collector Customs says: Technical glitches in EFS to be removed

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

She was chairing a workshop jointly organized by the APTMA and Collectorate of Customs here at APTMA North Zone office. Collector Customs Sambarial Nayyar Shafiq and Additional Collector Farah Farooq also accompanied her on the occasion. Chairman APTMA North Zone Hamid Zaman, Senior Vice Chairman Kamran Arshad and Secretary General Raza Baqir welcomed the team.

OGRA takes swift action against violations in LPG industry

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

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

safety measures, said a news release on Tuesday.

The inspection revealed that the LPG plant, whose licensee is responsible for adhering to OGRA's stringent guidelines, was engaged in the filling of gas in sub-standard cylinders, blatantly disregarding safety protocols that are in place to protect the public and ensure the safe handling of LPG.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minister Qamar.

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

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

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

be eligible for duty-free access to the UK.

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

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



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan in partnership with Business Sweden to Pakistan, welcomed the guests and said "Sweden is committed to support the people and government of Pakistan as they continue to recover from the widespread devastation caused by the country's worst floods in recent history. Rebuilding basic infrastructure is of high priority where Sweden has the opportunity to contribute with significant sustainable solutions in a number of vital areas. The report paints a picture of a private sector that is eager to help and that sees opportunities coming out of a difficult situation, with a shared vision of cooperating to create the right conditions for growth and prosperity in Pakistan for the future." Speaking at the occasion, Emil Akander, Vice President South and Southeast Asia Business Sweden said "Sweden is a powerhouse of innovation.

for a more proactive Pakistan.

Henrik Persson, Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, welcomed the guests and said "Sweden is committed to support the people and government of Pakistan as they continue to recover from the widespread devastation caused by the country's worst floods in recent history. Rebuilding basic infrastructure is of high priority where Sweden has the opportunity to contribute with significant sustainable solutions in a number of vital areas. The report paints a picture of a private sector that is eager to help and that sees opportunities coming out of a difficult situation, with a shared vision of cooperating to create the right conditions for growth and prosperity in Pakistan for the future." Speaking at the occasion, Emil Akander, Vice President South and Southeast Asia Business Sweden said "Sweden is a powerhouse of innovation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She courageously fought two military dictators and emerged successfully – an extraordinary, if not unbelievable feat. She rose to the daunting challenges and obstacles in her path, and openly challenged the brutish governments of General Zia-ul-Haq and later General Pervez Musharraf, nationally and internationally. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto spent five years imprisoned by her father's tormentors and tyrants who had imprisoned the entire nation. She spent many years in solitary confinement and was exiled from Pakistan. And yet she rose. She rose to become the Prime Minister of Pakistan, not once but twice. Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was ousted from legitimate governments – twice – by elements that could not tolerate the forward-looking nation Pakistan was becoming under her guidance. She never surrendered her vision or gave up hope on her

people and her country.

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

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

From Karachi to Kash-

at this very place

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

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile Central President of Pakistan Peoples Party's Wome-



"I put my life in danger and came here because I feel this country is in danger. People are worried. We will bring the country out of this crisis." Said Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto during the Liaquat Bagh jalsa on 27th December 2007 in Rawalpindi. These astute words from what was to be Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto's last jalsa, because she was brutally assassinated shortly after uttering these words.

She dreamt of a prosperous and developed Pakistan. However, Mohtarma had also foreseen the declining situation of the world caused by increasing extremism and terrorism. She used to warn the world against the promotion of the extremism and militancy for any political gain. She was of the opinion that, "Extremism today is a challenge. A challenge we must collectively seek to understand and overcome before it overcomes and consumes us and leaves destruction in its wake." Had the world listened to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto and understood her vision, today the monster of extremism and terrorism would have been defeated across the nation.

A suicide attacker took the life of a brave, charismatic, and visionary leader, who lived and died for the people of Pakistan. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto fell victim to the dark forces of tyranny and terrorism in Pakistan. She was martyred during the jalsa at Liaquat Bagh, Rawalpindi. Ironically, the first Prime Minister of Pakistan, Liaquat Ali Khan was also martyred

Wing and Member of Sindh Assembly, Faryal Talpur has said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto won the hearts of the people due to her political wisdom, untiring struggle and unparalleled sacrifices, which will always be remembered in the history. In her statement issued on the 70th birth anniversary of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Faryal Talpur said that a brave, humble and history-making leaders like her are born after the centuries.

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

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

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



Bilawal reiterates to follow philosophy of Shaheed BB

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

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

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

(Benazir will come, bring employment).

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

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

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

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

complete her incomplete mission.

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

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



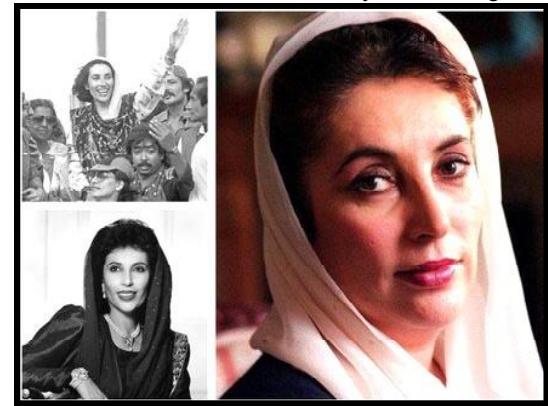
Remembering Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's Legacy

By Bashir Riaz

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

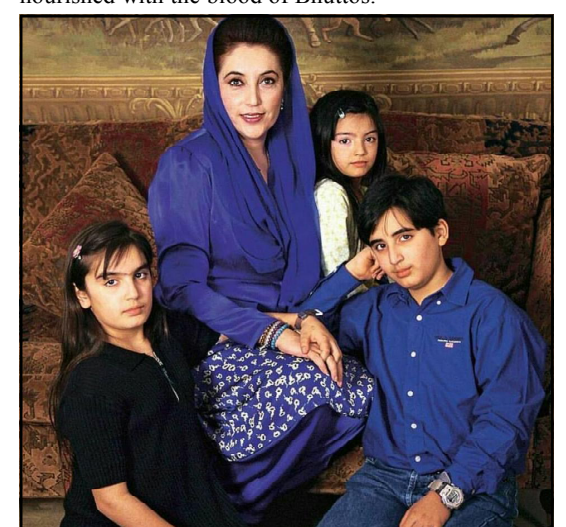
her eyes and she never wallowed in self-pity. When she would talk about her time in jail, she always remembered her party workers awaiting punishment in the Pakistani jails. She never forgot the need to fight for her people, staying true to the legacy of her father, Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. She said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

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

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

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

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



President stresses economic diplomacy to boost trade

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

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

The President expressed these views while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Denmark and High-Commissioner-designate to Rwanda, who separately called on him, here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

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

He highlighted that the dairy and agriculture sector

were important areas where Danish companies could be invited to invest in Pakistan.

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

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

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

Talking to Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Rwanda, Naem Ullah Khan, the President

highlighted that Pakistan attached great importance to its bilateral ties with Rwanda and both countries enjoyed cordial relations.

He stated that there was great potential for co-operation in agriculture, food security and human resource development, which should be fully tapped. He asked the envoy to further improve trade and commercial relations by facilitating importers and exporters, besides reaching out to Rwandan businessmen to explore the Pakistani market.

The president also urged the envoys to highlight the atrocities and human rights violations being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as persecution of minorities, particularly Muslims and Christians.



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

Speakers for taking measures to legalize border trade

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

The seminar organized by Islamabad Policy Research Institute.

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

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

He said that unparalleled development was not specific to Balochistan, but making it an excuse for vio-

lence was unacceptable.

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

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

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

Kumar proudly shared that minorities were free to practice their religion in the province.

Sanaullah Baloch said that taking into account the mega development projects were need of the hour to uplift the lives of people in the province.

Mushahid says Strengthening Iran ties key to Border & Energy Security

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Defence, chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, convened a meeting today to address important issues pertaining to national security and the well-being of the citizens. Senators Walid Iqbal, Hidayat Ullah, Mushatq Ahmad Khan, Dr Zarga Suharwardy Taimur, Engr Rukhsana Zuberi, Palwasha Mohammad Zai Khan and Mover; ex-Senator Muhammad Zahid Khan attended the meeting. Secretary Ministry of Defence Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman HI(M), Additional Secretary Ministry of Defence, Major General Khuram and DG Military Lands & Cantonments, Major General Tariq, and CEO Rawalpindi Cantonment, also participated.

The meeting commenced with Fateha offered for the souls who lost their lives in the Greece boat tragedy. The Committee extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with them during this difficult time.

The meeting discussed in detail the unauthorized commercial activities in Westridge, Rawalpindi Cantt. The Director General Military Lands and Cantonments (ML&C) delivered a detailed presentation, highlighting the steps taken to address the issue. He informed the committee that the department has been actively combating illegal activities and commercialization. However, due to a Supreme Court order issued on 5th January 2022, the ML&C has been restrained from taking action against school premises. The DG ML&C assured the committee that once the Cantonment Board (Amendment) Act 2023 is passed by the Parliament, stringent measures including heavy fines and property sealing, will be implemented to ensure compliance with the directions. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed assured the petitioner that he would expedite the process in the Senate, aiming for the prompt enactment of the act to resolve the long-standing concerns of the residents. Following a comprehensive discussion, the Chair disposed of the matter, after ensuring the satisfaction of the petitioner.

The Committee was also briefed on counter-terrorism operations conducted by the Pakistan Army in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, as well as the security situation on the borders with Iran and Afghanistan. Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed commended the recent meeting between the Pakistani Prime Minister and the President of Iran.



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

PTA urges safe, responsible use of social media

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

In an article titled "Principles, Responsibilities, and Ethics of Social Media," Director Muhammad Farooq emphasizes the profound impact of social media on society, both positive and negative. While these platforms offer numerous benefits such as digital literacy, access to local content, business opportunities, and instant information, they also have the capacity to undermine our social and moral values. One of the primary concerns highlighted in the article is the challenge of addressing false, defamatory, misleading, inappropriate, and hate-inducing content, as it threatens cultural and ethical values.

Moreover, the online platforms themselves are vulnerable to various risks.

Users who are unaware of local laws and community guidelines often fall victim to financial fraud, encounter online predators, or engage in illegal activities that can lead to legal consequences.

To ensure public convenience and safety, the article stresses the importance of following the necessary guidelines for the responsible use of social media. Users are advised to exercise caution when sharing content and protect personal information. It emphasized that while sharing information on social media may only take seconds, once uploaded, it becomes a permanent part of our digital footprint and can be exploited for negative purposes.

Law enforcement agencies can utilize illegal material to trace the original uploader, even deleted content, and initiate legal action if necessary.

Therefore, the article underscores the need to be cautious when posting or sharing personal or family information.

Peshawar mosque attack mastermind Sarbakaf dies mysteriously

ISLAMABAD (APP): The mastermind of a terrorist attack on the Peshawar Police Lines mosque and a commander of Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan Sarbakaf Mohmand has died mysteriously. According to sources, the internal rift between the terrorist outfits has intensified which also resulted into the death of Sarbakaf Mohmand.

Some social media accounts claimed that Sarbakaf was poisoned by unidentified persons.

Youth is asset of country: Barozai

QUETTA (INP): Former Caretaker Chief Minister of Balochistan and Chief of Sibi, Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Khan Barozai said, "Youth is the asset of the country and the nation. The government does not want to take all possible steps to bring the people, agents, and companies responsible for the death of the person to account. There is a place to think that why the government has not suppressed such elements till now?"

He expressed these thoughts while talking to the national news agency INP. On this occasion, Nawabzada Baru Khan

Barozai, Nawabzada Shamun Khan Barozai, and other heads of the nations were also present.

Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Khan said that the tragedy in Greece was the result of the incompetence of our rulers, the bodies lying on the shores of Greece were our own. Expressing grief and sorrow over the death of Pakistani youth in a boat incident, he said that concrete and effective measures must be taken to prevent such actions and the government should take strict action against such persons, agents and companies.



QUETTA: A delegation led by MPA Akbar Mengal meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Naem condoles over loss of precious lives in Greece boat incident

QUETTA (APP): The central senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Chaudhry Naem Karim on Tuesday expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives in the Greece boat accident in which young people belonging to Azad Kashmir district Kotli, Khoi Ratta and different areas of Punjab were killed.

In a statement issued here, Chaudhry Naem Karim said that after the Greece boat accident, Pakistan Prime Minister

Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah took notice of this incident and ordered an indiscriminate crackdown against human trafficking and those who illegally send young people abroad and so far many agents have been arrested for illegally sending people abroad.

Governor assures possible resources to historic Lady Dufferin Hospital

Independent Report QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has assured that every possible resources would be provided to the historic Lady Dufferin Hospital Quetta so as to maintain its quality services.

The assurance was made by the Governor while speaking to the Board of Directors of the Lady Dufferin Hospital who called on him under leadership of Sardar Yahya Khan Nasar, here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The Governor said that several hospitals have been serving the masses since the British raj in the provincial metropolis and Lady Dufferin Hospital is prominent among them.

He said that it is included in priorities of the government to provide medical facilities to the common men. Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar maintained that there is more room of construction and expansion in the Lady Dufferin Hospital located in middle of the city. There is also a need to of new constructions for treatment and care of the maximum patients in the Hospital, adding he stressed. The Governor appealed to the philanthropists particularly the international agencies working in the healthcare sector to take wholehearted part in supporting such institutions. He assured the delegation of his full cooperation for expanding the Hospital.



QUETTA: Pashtunkhwa Milli Awami Party (PKMAP) Leader, Nasrullah Khan Zayrai addresses to media persons during press conference, at Quetta press club.

Violent incident in Quetta provokes transportation Union's outrage

By Nasir Shahwani QUETTA: Haji Malik Shah Jamalini, President of the All Quetta Transport Union, and Haji Abdul Malik Mohammad Hassani, General Secretary, jointly expressed their concerns in a statement regarding the recent disturbing incident in the Qila Saifullah area.

They revealed that the extortionist group, allegedly associated with the Coordinator for the Chief Minister of Balochistan, set ablaze a truck, including its cargo, as a retaliation for not receiving the demanded extortion money. The leaders vehemently condemned the incident and emphasized the Baloch people's unwavering display of patience and tolerance.

They further added that regrettably this is not the first time that such an incident has taken place in the same area, adding that previously, the Baloch nation's resilient spirit was tested when a bus was set on fire.

"The recent cowardly act of the extortionist mafia threatens to disrupt the peace in the region. No incident of this nature has been reported in the Baloch

Belt so far, where vehicles from Pashtun tribes pass without any extortion demands. Instead, they are warmly welcomed and hospitably treated. However, when our vehicles traverse their routes, extortion activities commence. If such incidents persist in the Baloch Belt, it could lead to a state of conflict in the province.

These actions raise questions about the intentions of these individuals and their negative impact on the province's overall situation," they said.

They said that while all business activities of Pashtun tribes are currently operating smoothly in the Baloch Belt without any trouble, the targeting of Baloch vehicles on a specific route raises several concerns, adding that stone pelting has become a regular occurrence on Baloch buses, causing damage and loss.

The leaders further added that the provincial government has been ineffective in addressing these issues and added that the claims made by the Chief Minister and Chief Secretary have proven to be baseless.

Electricity tariff for DISCOs, K-Electric consumers likely to go up

ISLAMABAD (Online): Power tariff in respect of consumers of DISCOs and K-Electric is likely to go up.

The electricity tariff for DISCOs consumers is likely to scale up by Rs 2.05 per unit and for K-Electric consumers Rs 1.49 per unit. Authority will give final decision in this regard after hearing the applications on July 05. CPPA has filed two applications in NEPRA seeking increase in power tariff for DISCOs consumers by Rs 2.05 per unit and K-Electric consumers Rs 1.49 per unit.

World Hydrography Day: CNS seeks maritime stakeholders' role to stimulate economy

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

The Naval Chief, in his message on World Hydrography Day (WHD), said as per the United Nations Convention on Law

of the Sea (UNCLOS), Pakistan like other coastal states was responsible for hydrographic surveys and production of nautical charts/maps of its waters to provide accurate nautical information to the mariners.

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

BPPRA, GPP joined forces to introduce a three-week diploma program

Independent Report QUETTA: The Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) and the Governance and Policy Project (GPP) have joined forces to introduce a three-week diploma program in Procurement and Supply Chain

across various departments in the province.

In a certificate distribution ceremony held in Quetta on Monday, BPPRA recognized the efforts of participants who successfully completed the training program. This marks the first-ever initiative

of its kind supported by a foreign-funded project, and the Governance and Policy Project ensured its successful execution with the collaboration of BPPRA.

The diploma program, initiated at BPPRA's capacity-building section with the assistance of GPP Balochistan, brought together resource persons from both BPPRA and IMS Peshawar. Faculty members from universities including Lorai, Turbat, Gwadar, UOB, SBK, BUIEMS, Lasbela, and government officials from various procurement departments actively participated in the training. The comprehensive program covered topics such as Supply Chain Management, Warehousing, Logistics, Bidding, Tendering, and the BPPRA Rule 2014.



Management. The initiative, conducted in partnership with the Institute of Management Sciences (IMSciences) in Peshawar, aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals involved in public procurement management.

2616 children affected by measles in KP; 22 died

PESHAWAR (APP): The Health Department Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday said that the measles outbreak in the province claimed 22 lives and affected 2616 children during the first five months of the current year. In a report released here, the department said that Dera Ismail Khan was the most affected district where 462 cases of measles were reported and 13 children died, adding that 317 positive cases were reported from Charsadda, 226 Peshawar, 166 Bajaur and 161 from Mardan.

Similarly, a total 171 children were infected by measles in Nowshera, Lakki Marwat, and Karak and 136 in Peshawar and Swabi.

The health department said that the scale of the measles outbreak of this year was greater than the cases reported throughout the last year.

Jaffar Mehtarzai, others join PPP

Independent Report MUHAMMAD IQBAL KAKAR, Zahoor Ahmad Raisani and others said in a joint statement that the coming era will belong to the People's Party. People's participation is a manifestation of the aspirational leadership of the People's Party and the confidence in the positive policies.

Today's joining is a sign of the strength of the party not only at the provincial, and district but also at the tehsil and village levels and the People's Party will not disappoint the nation by coming to power. Kuchlak and the elected representative of constituency PB24 have received more funds for development projects more than 6 billion, but the incompetent and corrupt parliamentary secretary squandered them and promoted the contract and contracting system by committing corruption and commission, they added.

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