

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 196 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Thursday June 22, 2023, Zil Hajj 03, 1444 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairing a meeting regarding human smuggling and the recent capsizing of a boat in the Mediterranean near Greece.

PM directs for ensuring complete prevention of human trafficking

Bring all those responsible for human smuggling to justice as soon as possible

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to supervise the investigation and formulate necessary legislative proposals regarding the complete prevention of human trafficking.

He also directed the investigation committee regarding the Greece shipwreck incident to finalize its proceedings and present its report as soon as possible.

A high-level meeting with respect to the Greece boat incident was held here under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Expressing anger over the incident, the prime minister questioned why the criminal activities of human smuggling could not be timely stopped.

He asked why concrete preventive measures were not taken despite repeated happenings of such kind of incidents. The prime minister directed the relevant authorities to bring all those responsible for human smuggling to justice as soon as possible.

Federal Ministers Rana Sanaullah, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq

Fatimi, DG FIA, Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other relevant high officials were present in the meeting. On June 14, a boat sank in the Mediterranean Sea near Greece, in which 104 people have been rescued alive, out of which 12 are from Pakistan. So far, a total of 79 bodies have been recovered from the sea.

The meeting was told that the coordination cell established in the Ministry of Interior was working 24 hours, where families of missing persons can contact anytime. The meeting was informed that after the incident, a total of 10 FIRs had been registered while 15 people had been arrested, including the main accused of the incident.

It was told that an organized network from different countries is involved in human trafficking.

The Prime Minister directed the FIA to promptly complete the detailed investigation of the matter and to take effective measures to prevent it.

The Prime Minister also directed Commissioner Gujranwala to identify the agents involved in the heinous act of human trafficking in the Gujranwala district and bring them to justice immediately.

9-member SC bench to take up pleas against military court trial

ISLAMABAD (INP): (June 22). Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial has constituted a nine-judge bench to take up petitions against the trial of May 9 rioters in military courts. The chief justice is heading the bench while Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Sardar Tariq, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Khan Afridi, Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik are its members. The petitions have been set for hearing today

Last month, PTI activists took to the streets to vent their spleen over the arrest of Imran Khan in a corruption case. They damaged public property, state assets and sensitive installations. The rioters stormed GHQ in Rawalpindi, Corps Commander House in Lahore and Radio Pakistan. Innocent people lost their lives and riots left a trail of destruction. The government launched a hunt for the culprits in PTI. As soon as the decision to try rioters in military court, PTI moved the Supreme Court (SC) against it, calling the decision a 'clear violation' of the constitutional guarantees of due process and fair trial. "Such trials are highly deprecated internationally and widely considered as falling short of providing fair trial," the petition stated. It stated, "They constitute a violation of Pakistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which has been ratified by the country."

Protecting Prophet's (PBUH) honour religious duty of every Muslim: Rana Sana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Wednesday said it was the religious obligation of every Muslim to protect and uphold the honour of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him). No compromises could be made on the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) honour as the love for him was deeply embedded in the hearts of Muslims, he said chairing a meeting of the joint committee of the government and Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP).

The minister further said a person who did not believe in the finality of the Prophethood could not be considered a Muslim. The meeting, attended by Minister of State for Interior Abdul Rehman Kanju and Secretary Interior Syed Ali Murtaza, reviewed the progress made on the measures taken to safeguard the honour of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). The TLP was represented by Dr Shafiq Amini, Mufi Ameer Al-Azhari and others. Officials of the ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs and Information Technology, Federal Investigation Agency, Pakistan Telecommunication Authority, Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority, and provincial home departments were also in attendance.



KARACHI: Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Foreign Minister cutting cake to celebrate 70th birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto

President Alvi appoints Justice Qazi Faez Isa as next CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday approved the appointment of Justice Qazi Faez Isa as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.

Justice Qazi Faez Isa will assume office on September 17, 2023, following the retirement of the incumbent Chief Justice of Pakistan Justice Umar Ata Bandial, a President House statement said.

The incumbent chief justice will reach the age of superannuation on September 16, 2023, under Article 179 of the Constitution.

The president, who appointed Justice Qazi Faez Isa under Article 175A (3) of the Constitution, would also administer the oath of office to him on September 17, 2023.

Govt committed to complete IMF programme: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Wednesday that the government was committed to complete the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme. During a meeting with Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome who called on the minister, the minister informed him about the progress on the on-going talks with IMF, according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

He informed the US Ambassador about the government's budgetary measures to reduce the fiscal gap in order to meet its national as well as international financial obligations. The two sides also exchanged views about areas of common interest and how the existing bilateral relations between the two countries can be enhanced further.

States on economic and trade fronts. Dar shared the economic policies and priorities of the government to address the challenging economic environment and set the economy on the path to stability and growth.

He informed the US Ambassador about the government's budgetary measures to reduce the fiscal gap in order to meet its national as well as international financial obligations.

The two sides also exchanged views about areas of common interest and how the existing bilateral relations between the two countries can be enhanced further.

Pak, Iran pledge stronger bonds through pilgrimage, trade cooperation

MAKKAH MUKARMA (APP): Pakistan and Iran have reiterated their resolve to further enhance cooperation in facilitating pilgrims and extending economic cooperation through border trade, aiming to create a seamless and enchanting experience for pilgrims, besides strengthening their economic ties.

In a meeting with Syed Fateh Nawab, the head of the Iranian Hajj Mission in Makkah on Wednesday, Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Senator Talha Mehmood, stated that the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding the Ziaraat of sacred places in Iran has been sent to the Iranian Embassy in Pakistan through our representative from the Foreign Ministry.

Talha highlighted the importance of Iran's assistance during the 1965 war and stressed the need for a strong partnership to promote the prosperity and progress of both nations. He emphasized the significance of supporting each other in combating economic challenges and difficulties.

Talha voiced his aspiration to formalize and streamline the border trade between the two countries, which currently takes place through Dubai. Recognizing the significant potential for bilateral trade, Talha emphasized the importance of establishing regularized channels for commerce between the two nations.

Talha highlighted the importance of Iran's assistance during the 1965 war and stressed the need for a strong partnership to promote the prosperity and progress of both nations. He emphasized the significance of supporting each other in combating economic challenges and difficulties.

Talha expressed his utmost desire for the Memorandum of Understanding



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan chairing a meeting with Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan. Minister of State for Interior Abdul Rehman Kanju is also present on the occasion.

PM constitutes AC for revival of national economy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has constituted Apex Committee (AC) for revival of national economy.

PM himself will head AC. The committee will also include Army chief and military authorities.

Sources said finance minister, minister for planning, defence minister and minister for defence production will also be included in the committee.

Federal minister food security, minister for information technology and minister for petroleum and natural resources will also be part of the committee. The sources disclosed that the AC will evolve

frame work on foreign investment in Pakistan. The committee will also facilitate the countries interested in making investment in Pakistan. Government sources have claimed 5 major countries have shown interest in making heavy investment in Pakistan. Among these countries Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain are ready to make heavy investment in Pakistan. AC will monitor the matters related to investment of these countries in Pakistan. The committee will ensure investment of these countries in Pakistan within the next three years.

PM arrives in Paris to attend New Global Financing Pact Summit

PARIS (France) (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday arrived here on an official visit to attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit, on the invitation of French President Emmanuel Macron.

As the prime minister landed at the Paris Airport along with his delegation, he was warmly received by Pakistan's ambassador in France and diplomatic officials, besides senior French government authorities.

Federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi are part of the prime minister's entourage. During the visit, the prime minister will attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit being hosted by France and participated by heads of state and delegates from over 50 countries.

He was speaking at a Tuesday's session on 'The Global Threat Landscape: Assessment of Current and Emerging Trends', which was part of the third UN Counter-Terrorism Week now underway in New York.

Ambassador Akram also spoke about the continued campaign to portray struggles for self-determination and national liberation as terrorism, in order to justify the oppression of peoples under foreign occupation.

Two US lawmakers to boycott Modi's address

WASHINGTON (INP): Two US lawmakers, Rashida Thaib and Ilhan Omar, have said that they will boycott the Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's address the US Congress. According to Kashmir Media Service, Narendra Modi, who is on US official visit, is scheduled to address a joint session of the US Congress, tomorrow. Minnesota 5th District Congresswoman Ilhan Omar has maintained that the Modi-led government of India is "repressing minorities, emboldening violent Hindu nationalist groups, and targeting jour-

nalists/human rights advocates with impunity." She will also host an event at the Capitol following Modi's address with human rights experts, religious freedom leaders and other members of Congress on Indian policy issues to discuss Modi's record of repression and violence. "Prime Minister Modi's government has repressed religious minorities, emboldened violent Hindu nationalist groups, and targeted journalists/human rights advocates with impunity. I will NOT be attending Modi's speech," Omar tweeted.

PN ready to tackle maritime security challenges: CNS

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi visited National Defence University (NDU), Islamabad and addressed the course participants of National Security & War Course. On his arrival, the Naval Chief was received by President NDU Lt Gen Rahat Naseem Ahmed Khan. While addressing the course participants, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi paid rich tribute to the role and sacrifices of Pakistan Armed Forces for defence of the motherland. He lauded the efforts of officers and men for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations during recent cyclone and nationwide floods last year. Naval Chief underscored the need for officers to remain abreast of major geopolitical developments and technological changes oc-

curing across the world. He emphasized that synergy remains central to the modern concept of military operations as no military force can achieve success in today's warfare single handedly. The Naval Chief highlighted that Pakistan Navy with the active support of sister services is ready to tackle the maritime security challenges facing the country today. The Admiral appreciated efforts of NDU for providing the academic stimulus and honing the professional abilities of course participants.

National Defence University is the apex military training institute of Pakistan inculcating advanced professional military training to officers of Pakistan Armed Forces and friendly countries for assuming future key Command and Staff appointments.

Soon PML-N will hold big gathering in London. The majority of PML-N leaders are in favor of landing by Nawaz Sharif in Lahore. The PML-N workers from all over the country will be given task to reach Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi addressing National Security & War Course members at National Defence University (NDU)

Pakistan tells world it remains victim of foreign funded terrorists

UNITED NATIONS (APP): A top Pakistani diplomat has told the international community that Pakistan continues to be a victim of attacks from "externally sponsored terrorist groups" such as the TTP, Da'esh and Baloch militant groups, warning that the country would employ all means to defeat them. "We have ample evidence of the external State support to these terrorist groups by our adversary to attack at Karachi Stock Exchange, Chinese Consulate and Dams and infrastructure," Ambassador Munir Akram said, obviously referring to India.

"Pakistan has been a principal target of such terrorism, having sacrificed 80,000 lives," the Pakistani envoy added.

He was speaking at a Tuesday's session on 'The Global Threat Landscape: Assessment of Current and Emerging Trends', which was part of the third UN Counter-Terrorism Week now underway in New York.

Ambassador Akram also spoke about the continued campaign to portray struggles for self-determination and national liberation as terrorism, in order to justify the oppression of peoples under foreign occupation.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Thriving racket

All sound and fury signifying nothing. That, in a nutshell, is how best to describe the storm of condemnation by the government and the anti-human smuggling operations taking place in the country, thousands of miles from the watery grave where so many, possibly hundreds, of Pakistanis met their deaths last week.

The FIA has swung into action and several traffickers allegedly involved in human smuggling have been arrested in the country.

Yesterday, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah promised that the investigation into the catastrophe that struck the overloaded fishing trawler off the Greek coast would be completed within a week.

The ill-fated vessel was carrying at least 800 people, including reportedly 400 Pakistanis, when it capsized in the Mediterranean Sea. Only 104 people are known to have survived, with virtually no chance of finding more survivors. Bodies of around 80 have been retrieved from the water, as anguished relatives wait for news, hoping at the very least for a chance to provide a burial for their loved ones. Unfortunately, it is only the scale of the latest tragedy that has sparked this flurry of activity, the need to be seen as doing something. Human smuggling is a national shame, with thousands of desperate Pakistanis every year risking life and limb and their hard-earned money to reach Europe for a chance at a better future.

Some undertake to go to their chosen destinations via Balochistan, Iran and Turkey. Suffering hunger and thirst, dodging bullets from border patrols, many die on the way; some are kidnapped for ransom by criminal gangs in Iran and Turkey. Another means of illegal passage is the 'Libyan route' which entails crossing the Mediterranean under incredibly dangerous and squalid circumstances.

And all this happens under the very nose of the authorities: the various routes and modus operandi have even been reported on ad nauseam in the media. For, while it is an organised crime on a global scale, every 'national' component of migrant smuggling is sustained by an elaborate network with multiple stakeholders. Traffickers are but one aspect of this lucrative criminal racket whose tentacles extend into the highest corridors of power. And yet, when has anyone of consequence been charged, let alone been punished, for complicity? And it is that ruling elite of this country that is responsible for collectively creating such a loss of hope that it is driving young people out of Pakistan on treacherous journeys towards greener pastures, no matter the hellish experiences they must endure to reach them.

Consider that on the trawler that capsized in the Mediterranean last week, the Pakistanis were reportedly forced to occupy the hold — the most dangerous part of the vessel — and singled out for maltreatment. Unless every aspect of this racket is stamped out, human smuggling from Pakistan will continue to thrive.



Rafia Zakaria

It is being called the worst migrant boat disaster in the Mediterranean Sea. A week ago, a migrant boat carrying up to 750 people, 400 of them said to be Pakistanis, started to have trouble with its engine. After three days of being stranded, the boat capsized and most of the passengers died — in fact, all of them, except for 104, who were rescued. Among the survivors were only 12 Pakistanis.

The boat smugglers who run these migrant boats had promised its passengers passage from Libya to Italy. The accident took place off the shores of Greece.

In the hours after news of the boat disaster spread, relatives of the Egyptians, Syrians and Pakistanis, and possibly other nationalities, on board gathered in Kalamata in Greece to find out whether their relatives had lived or died. Most of course, were indeed dead, their journey to a better life having, ironically, taken their own life.

Pakistanis reporting on the boat disaster have emphasised how the Pakistanis on the boat were treated worse than the other passengers by the Egyptian boat operators. They were kept below the deck in absolutely disgusting and fetid conditions and their travel documents like passports etc, were taken away.

According to Yiva Johansson, the EU commissioner for home affairs, there has been a 600 per cent increase in the number of these boats running the Mediterranean passage. The majority, it seems, have little hope of

Boats of doom

actually accomplishing their goal of getting people safely to the EU countries where they want to go to live a better life. As Johansson puts it the passengers are being sent "to their deaths".

On Monday, a few days after the accident, the Greek version of the story which holds that the boat was on course to Italy was being questioned. A BBC report looked at tracking data from passing ships to see the boat's location.

They found that the Greek narrative which held that the Greek coastguard did not assist the ship because the boat was on a steady course to Italy may not be true. The boat was actually stationary for several hours near the Greek coast — giving plenty of time to the coastguard to assist it. Was it, then, Greece that was the boat's destination?

The issue of Greek or Italian or any other European nation failing to rescue migrants has become normalised in recent years. Again and again, there are absolutely heartrending stories of migrants taking extreme risks to get to the European Union because they believe that they will have a better life in Europe. This idea itself requires some questioning given the dire economic situation in many European countries.

Greece and Italy, for instance, are both in economic decline, with rising unemployment in the post-Covid era. In the case of this particular boat catastrophe, nine Egyptian men, allegedly the smugglers who ran the boat, have appeared in court. Institutions such as the Greek, or in other cases the Italian, coastguard have, as per usual, escaped accountability even as the United Nations has called the efforts at saving migrant boats dismal.

In Pakistan itself, people need to be better educated about the actual opportunities available to them in the EU. The

gradual decline in employment opportunities available in Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Gulf in general, all of which are trying to transition to more locally staffed workforces, are one reason that more and more Pakistanis have been found travelling on migrant boats.

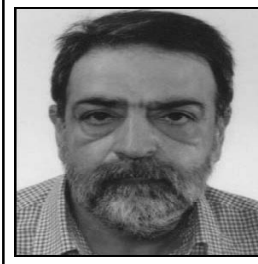
This is exactly why a public information campaign that underscores not only the extreme risks that these boats represent but also the life that awaits them even if they do get to Europe is a desperate need. As anyone who has travelled to the EU can attest, migrants who make it are either sequestered in horrendous conditions in filthy refugee camps (such as the one on the Italian island of Lampedusa) or seen cold and shivering hawking trinkets at tourist sites. The risk is far greater than the reward of getting to the EU countries.

As artificial intelligence and remote work gets more integrated into the workforce, developed industrialised democracies in EU and also the UK and US are going to decline further. In other words, all of these countries are looking at the impending employment crises particularly in the low-skilled sector.

Already, stores have stopped hiring cashiers and shelf stockers because these jobs have become automated. Soon jobs that do not require much local context information, such as computer programming, data sciences etc, are also going to end up in countries that can provide these services at the lowest cost.

Developed economies are aware of this and of the fact that low-skilled workers will become redundant first. This is going to require these wealthier countries to institute some sorts of benefits such as a universal basic income so that the poor in their countries can survive. - Courtesy Dawn

Man of conscience



Mahir Ali

On Sunday, June 13, 1971, the New York Times carried a groundbreaking report across three columns at the top of its front page under a rather mundane headline, 'Vietnam Archive: Pentagon Study Traces 3 Decades of Growing US Involvement'. It was a live bombshell dressed up as history, with several inside pages devoted to the topic.

It landed with a dull thud. Initially, there was almost no reaction. Then the Nixon White House stepped in. A telex from the attorney-general, John Mitchell, ordered the NYT to desist. The newspaper responded defiantly, and published more the following day. Mitchell took the matter to court and obtained an injunction. Right away, other newspapers, beginning with the Washington Post, began publishing reports based on the same study. Within days the NYT, backed by its rival the Post, took the matter to the supreme court, which ruled that "prior restraint" was unconstitutional under the First Amendment.

The majority decision upheld free speech but did not protect the papers, let alone their source, from prosecution. The study, which became known as the Pentagon Papers, had been commissioned in 1967 by Robert McNamara, defence secretary in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. It laid bare the extent of US involvement in Vietnam going back to 1945, and left no doubt that successive presidents had consistently lied to the public about their nation's obnoxious role in

Indochina. Daniel Ellsberg, the Rand Corporation consultant who had contributed to the study and eventually decided to publicise it, was once a gung-ho cold warrior whose mind was changed by the two years he spent in South Vietnam in the mid-1960s. He realised not only that the war could not be won, but also that it was wrong. As he put it in the 1974 documentary Hearts and Minds, it's not just that the US was on the wrong side, but rather "we are the wrong side".

Ellsberg, who died last Friday at 92, was a dedicated antiwar activist even before the Pentagon Papers were publicised, alongside the likes of the late historian Howard Zinn and Noam Chomsky. It was in fact a speech by a draft resister who faced imprisonment that persuaded Ellsberg to reveal the secrets of which he had gathered intimate knowledge. After offering the documents he had copied to a number of senators — some of whom, notably former affairs committee chair William Fulbright, promised to hold hearings but went quiet — Ellsberg eventually offered the information to NYT reporter Neil Sheehan.

It was months before the NYT published anything — on the very night, it turned out, that Ellsberg, a movie buff, watched for the first time what became his favourite film, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. He expected to spend the rest of his life in prison, but considered the sacrifice worthwhile if it helped to halt the war in Vietnam. He became the first civilian to be charged under the Espionage Act 50 years ago and faced a 125-year sentence. He escaped it thanks to the Nixon administration's overkill. Its operatives tried to burgle the office of Ellsberg's psychiatrist, hoping to embarrass him, but found nothing that could help them. There

were also efforts to debilitate or even assassinate Ellsberg.

The same operatives were caught out during their Watergate operations, and eventually served time, as did Mitchell and the Nixon aide John Ehrlichman, who, mid-trial, offered Ellsberg's trial judge the post of FBI director. The judge was obliged to declare a mistrial. Ellsberg was arrested dozens of times in succeeding years as an anti-nuclear activist, with his book The Do-omsday Machine offering a reminder of how close the world had come — and remained — to the ultimate catastrophe. At 90, he also reiterated his knowledge of American plans for a nuclear strike during the 1958 Taiwan Strait crisis. The possibility of that particular confrontation remains alive today. In his latter years, Ellsberg was a vociferous defender of fellow whistleblowers such as Edward Snowden, Chelsea Manning and Julian Assange — and recognised Afghanistan and Iraq as symptoms of his failure as a dedicated truth-teller to thwart the US imperialist enterprise. He was also an admirer of Bernie Sanders, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and, above all, Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. His monumental legacy will endure, unlike — hopefully — the American empire. A single column on the far right of the NYT front page mentioned at the outset is headlined 'US urges Indians and Pakistanis to use restraint'. By then, West Pakistani forces were busy creating their own Vietnam. And the Nixon administration's response doesn't sound very different from how the Biden White House responds to Israeli transgressions against human rights. From America to Pakistan and far beyond, the world would benefit from a lot more Daniel Ellsbergs. - Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Musadiq Malik says: Pak-Azerbaijan LNG purchase agreement will end gas crises soon

ISLAMABAD (APP): State Minister for Petroleum Musadiq Malik Wednesday assured that Pakistan's a liquefied natural gas (LNG) purchase agreement framework with Azerbaijan would end gas crises and domestic consumers will not face any gas shortage in the next winter season.

Pak-Azerbaijan long-term agreement in the current year we will have 9 to 10 cargo factories in the country, adding, Azerbaijan would help Pakistan to fulfill its energy needs through cooperation in the fields of oil and gas.

Replying to a question about the shortage of gas, he said in winter, we would be able to control the gas shortage.

In some specific areas in Karachi's, he said that we have been facing infrastructure issues that will be solved on a priority

basis. - nment hoped to give more relief to domestic consumers in coming winters which will ensure gas supplies to residential consumers at three times.

To another question, he explained that the government has also devised a plan to attract investment from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as part of the 'Economic Revival Plan', adding, these billion of investments in the country would create jobs and livelihoods for the youth and women.

Gold imports up by 44.22% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The gold imports increased by 44.22 percent during the past eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. The gold imports during the July-May (2022-23) were recorded at \$27.377 million as compared to the imports of \$18.983 million during

July-May (2021-22), according to the data.

In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 437 kilograms of gold during the months under review as compared to the imports of 302 kilograms last year, showing growth of 44.70 percent. Meanwhile on year-on-year basis, the gold imports into the country witnessed an increase of 250.55 percent as these were recorded at \$3.421 million.

Gold prices decline by Rs.1,800

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.1,800 and was sold at Rs.218,700 on Wednesday against its sale at Rs.220,500 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.1,543 to Rs.187,500 from Rs.189,043 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.171,875.



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

ECC approves Rs1.9 bln technical supplementary grants

ISLAMABAD (Online): In addition to approving various summaries, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet, here on Wednesday approved Rs1,914.83 million in technical supplementary grants for various ministries and divisions.

The cabinet committee meeting was attended by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, said a press statement issued by the finance

ministry.

According to the press statement, on the Ministry of Commerce summary ECC suspended Import conditions contained in Import Policy Order 2022 related to the import of Timber/Wood from the date of issuance of IPO 2022 to 31st October 2023 with direction to the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to review the import policy and come up with suggestions to settle this issue.

MNAs deliberate on Senate budget recommendations

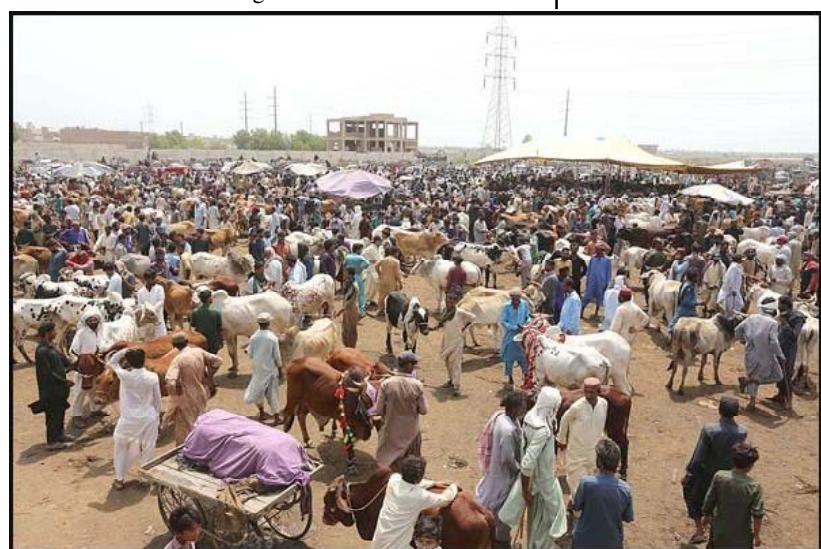
ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers in the National Assembly on Wednesday deliberated on recommendations of the Upper House of the Parliament presented for incorporation in the federal budget 2023-24, suggesting measures to improve the national economy, strengthen key financial sectors and provide maximum relief to the common man.

Resuming debate on the federal budget and the Senate recommendations, Dr Sobia Aslam Soomro of Pakistan Peoples Party

Parliamentarians (PPPP) said the past regime of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) installed landmines for the incumbent government by weakening the national economy and pushing the country towards the default-like situation. She said the present government effectively tackled all the economic challenges and put the country on a path of macroeconomic stability with collective wisdom, setting remarkable growth targets in the fiscal year 2023-24.

Commenting on the Senate budget recommendations, she suggested increasing sales tax on sugary-energy drinks and tobacco products so the generated revenue could be utilized in health and education sectors besides controlling the increasing population.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, she said, soon after assuming charge of the office restarted the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project that remained on backburner during the three-hand-an-half year rule of the PTI.



HYDERABAD: Vendors selling sacrificial animals at Animal Market Hathri Bypass in connection with upcoming Eid ul Azha.

540 bln invoices issued through POS in one year: FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Wednesday said that almost 540 billion invoices have been issued through the Point of Sale (POS) system in one year.

Director General Automation Abdul Wahid said this during the 2nd day of a workshop titled "Digitalization of Taxes in Pakistan" jointly organized by FBR and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP).

Addressing the participants he said that

almost 50 million invoices were issued on a monthly basis.

He said in order to improve and expand the system steps are being taken.

FBR senior official said that the use of technology in Pakistan is less as compared to other developed countries adding that the FBR is trying to make tax and tax matters easier.

He urged the private sector to put their efforts to improve the system and minimize the loopholes.

Prices hike of vegetables, fruits worries citizens

PESHAWAR (APP): The sudden increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits in Peshawar worried the citizens and they demanded of the district government to ensure the availability of food items at the rates given by the district administration. During a visit to the vegetable and fruit markets, the price of ginger increased to Rs 860 per kg, garlic Rs 320, and onion to 160 per kg. Onion 50, tomato 30, green pepper 100, okra 90, and peas 230 rupees sold per kg.

Sale tax evasion worth Rs 1358 million recovered on June 20

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Directorate of Intelligence and Investigation, Inland Revenue, Lahore recovered sale tax evasion worth Rs 1,358 million and default surcharge of Rs 26 million from a reputed company on the other day.

The company issued illegal credit notes of huge amounts in Annexure-C of the sales tax returns without corresponding debit notes from the buyers, said a FBR press release issued here on Wednesday. In this way, the

company suppressed output tax to reduce its sales tax liability for the tax periods in which illegal credit notes were issued and thus deprived the national exchequer from due tax revenue.

The team of the Directorate gathered information meticulously without disturbing the business activity of the company to initiate proceedings under section 38 of the Sales Tax Act, 1990 and retrieved the record and documents from the business premises.



PESHAWAR: A representative delegation of All Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Goods Transport Union meeting with Khyber Pakhtoonkwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali and Chief Minister Muhammad Azam Khan.

CM Punjab expresses annoyance over poor arrangements at BBH

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Benazir Bhutto Hospital last night and expressed annoyance over poor arrangements at the hospital. During his visit, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found that air conditioners were shut down in several wards while the X-ray facility was also missing at the hospital. Some doctors and staff were also found absent

from their duties while Naqvi expressed strong displeasure over the treatment of patients on stretchers in corridors. On the occasion, the patients complained to the CM that medicines were not available in the hospital and they were forced to buy medicines from outside the hospital. The Caretaker CM assured the complainants that their concerns would be resolved and stern action would be taken against the negligent staff.

Dr Jamal directs to expedite anti-dengue surveillance

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Wednesday directed the relevant officials to expedite anti-dengue surveillance to combat dengue. Presiding over a meeting along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha to review anti-dengue arrangements, the minister directed the relevant officials to implement anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in letter and spirit. He directed all the relevant departments to utilize all resources to eliminate dengue mosquitoes, as the prevailing weather was

suitable for breeding larvae. Dr Jamal directed the concerned to remove stagnant water in graveyards and other public places to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water and warned that no negligence would be tolerated in any arrangements. He asked the district administration to arrange seminars and walks for creating awareness against dengue and check the hotspots regularly. On the occasion, the health officials briefed the meeting that ten dengue-positive cases had been reported in the Rawalpindi district this year.

PDMA issues GLOF alert for Chitral, Kohistan, Dir

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday issued an alert of flash floods in Upper and Lower Chitral, Kohistan, Upper and Lower Dir, and Swat due to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF). PDMA has directed all the relevant district administrations and other line departments to take precautionary measures and sensitive the local communities at risk, besides ensuring the availability of emergency and rescue services. The spokesperson of PDMA said that the authority also warned tourists to avoid any unnecessary travel to these areas.

KP Food Safety operation against adulteration mafia

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority is active against adulteration mafia across the province with more than 2500 liters of non-standard and mislabeled juices and packing materials were seized from the factory. According to a spokesman, the KP (FSHFA) launched an operation to people involved in using sub-standard materials in the food items.

Govt taking tangible steps for bringing reforms in jails: Hidayt

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for Prison Hidayt Ullah Khan Afridi on Wednesday said that the caretaker provincial government was taking tangible steps for bringing reforms in jails. He said, "Solid steps are also taking for providing basic human rights along with other facilities to detainees in jails." "It is the need of the hour to bring reforms in prison department aimed at tackling the current era challenges," he added. In a statement issued

from his office, the caretaker Special Assistant said, "For counseling the prisoners, psychiatrists perform their duties to make the prisoner's responsible citizens of society while prisoners are also learning different skills in jails." "The provision of standard meals in jails and the cleanliness of lockups are included in our priorities," he maintained. Hidayt Ullah Afridi said, "Medical facilities and other basic necessities are provided to detainees in the lockups." He issued directives to the relevant officers to make sure cleanliness and security of all jails.

Minister praises free micro-financing model of Akhuwat Foundation

PESHAWAR (APP): The delegation of the organization briefed the provincial minister about the operational responsibilities and the activities being carried out in various sectors for social development. Besides, Managing Director (MD) Technical & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), Abdul Ghaffar, Director General (DG) Industries, Barkatullah, Director (Finance) TEVTA, Munir Gul, representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC).

The delegation of the organization briefed the provincial minister about the operational responsibilities and the activities being carried out in various sectors for social development. Besides, Managing Director (MD) Technical & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), Abdul Ghaffar, Director General (DG) Industries, Barkatullah, Director (Finance) TEVTA, Munir Gul, representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC).

Governor Punjab says Govt taking concrete steps for promotion of higher education in country

Independent Report
LAHORE: Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Rubina Farooq and former Vice Chancellor of Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman at Governor House Lahore, here today. In the meeting, the improvement of governance in universities and the use of hydroponics technology in the agriculture sector were discussed. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that the government is taking concrete steps for the promotion of higher education in the country, adding that the government has allocated sufficient funds for the promotion of higher education in the recent budget. He said that the Muslim League (N) government has always paid special attention to the health and education sectors. Governor Punjab said that as Chancellor he is giving special attention to improving the quality of education in the universities and character building of the students. He said that he has directed the Vice-Chancellors to focus on the character building of the students. He also emphasized that there will be no compromise on governance issues in universities. Governor Punjab said that it is a good thing that women's universities are making progress. He said that it is a matter of pride that Government College Women University Faisalabad has come to a prominent place in the rankings of Times Higher Education and Asia.

Two killed in truck, motorcycle collision

LAHORE (APP): At least two youngsters were killed when the motorcycle they were riding on was hit by a truck near Raiwind near Lahore on early Wednesday afternoon. According to details, Rescue 1122 said that the accident occurred in Raiwind where a truck collided head-on due to over-speeding, killed two persons on the spot. Police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the bodies to nearby hospital.

Reproductive health rights essential for basic human rights: Shams ur Rehman

ABBOTTABAD (APP): District Population Welfare Officer Abbottabad Shams ur Rehman Wednesday said that reproductive health rights are an essential part of basic human rights and have been officially recognized and implemented through the Act by the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Assembly for the first time in 2020. He expressed these views while addressing a day-long awareness seminar about the Reproductive Health Act of 2020. The seminar was attended by District Health Officer Faisal Khanzada, Dr. Shahzad, Deputy Demographer of Population Welfare, Sadra Malik, and other officials from the Department. The seminar began with a presentation on population demographics by Deputy Demographer Sadra Malik.



LAHORE: Additional Secretary Shrinves Rana Shahid is talking to the media about the arrival of Indian Sikh pilgrims at Wagah border to join the death anniversary of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.

International News

Biden will not 'lecture' Modi on human rights, White House says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden welcomes India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, on Wednesday for two days of talks that the White House sees as bolstering "one of the defining partnerships of our age," despite ongoing concerns about human rights. Washington wants India to be a strategic counterweight to China while Modi is seeking to raise the influence that his country, now the world's most populous, has on the world stage. Biden and Modi are expected to announce a variety of agreements related to defense cooperation and sales, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and investments in India by Micron Technology and other US companies. Biden is expected to bring up US concerns about democratic backsliding in India, but he will not lecture Modi on the subject, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters. When the US sees challenges to press, religion or other freedoms, "we make our views known," Sullivan said. He added: "We do so in a way where we don't seek to lecture or assert that we don't have challenges ourselves." "Ultimately, the question of where politics and the question of democratic institutions go in India is going to be determined within India by Indians. It's not going to be determined by the United States," Sullivan said. Modi has been to the United States five times since becoming prime minister in 2014, but the trip will be his first with the full diplomatic status of a state visit, despite concerns over what is seen as a deteriorating human rights situation under his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.



Indian PM Narendra Modi is greeted by supporters upon his arrival at a hotel in New York City.

Israeli police clash with Druze protesters in the Golan Heights. The rare violence leaves 20 injured

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli police on Wednesday fired tear gas, sponge-tipped bullets and a water canon during mass demonstrations by Druze Arabs in the Golan Heights — a rare burst of violence in the normally quiet area. At least 20 people were reported injured. Thousands of Druze residents of the Golan took part in the demonstrations against the construction of massive wind turbines. The windswept area is an ideal spot for the turbines, but residents fear damage to their properties and landowners have said they did not understand the agreements they signed with a local power company, according to Israeli media. Israeli police said a large crowd attempted to storm a police position in the town of Masade, throwing stones, fireworks, setting tires on fire, vandalizing police cars, blocking roads and even shooting live fire into the air. A video released by police showed the crowd pelting riot police with objects. The video showed Israeli riot police, accompanied by a large armored vehicle equipped with a water canon, marching through the streets, firing tear gas. The sound of rapid gunfire is heard in the background. Israel's Ziv Hospital reported 20 injuries — including 12 members of the police with light wounds and eight civilians, four of whom were in serious condition. Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau overlooking northern Israel, from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war. It subsequently annexed the area in a move that was recognized by former President Donald Trump. But most of the international community considers the area to be occupied territory. While Druze leaders still profess allegiance to Syria, relations with Israel are normally good.

Over 30 feared dead as dinghy bound for Spain's Canary Islands sinks

Monitoring Desk
SPAIN: More than 30 migrants were feared dead after a dinghy headed for Spain's Canary Islands sank on Wednesday, two migration-focused organisations said on Wednesday. Walking Borders and Alarm Phone said the dinghy was originally carrying 59 people. Helena Maleno, head of Spain's Walking Borders migrants charity, said in a tweet that 39 people had drowned, without giving further details, while Alarm Phone, which operates a trans-European network supporting rescue operations, said 35 people were missing. Earlier on Wednesday, Alarm Phone reported the boat was taking on water and three passengers were dead, adding: "We demand immediate rescue, do not let them down!" Neither Spain's coastguard nor the Moroccan authorities would confirm how many people had been on board the vessel or how many might be missing. A Spanish coastguard source told Reuters that an operation carried out by Morocco some 88 miles to the southeast of Gran Canaria island rescued 24 people.



Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in Kuwait City.

European Union countries agree on a new package of sanctions against Russia over the war in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union countries on Wednesday agreed on a new package of sanctions against Russia for its war against Ukraine aimed at countering sanctions circumvention through third countries and businesses. The EU had previously imposed 10 rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Banks, companies and markets have been hit — even parts of the sensitive energy sector. More than 1,000 officials are subject to asset freezes and travel bans. Much work in the latest batch of sanctions has involved closing loopholes so that goods vital to Putin's war effort don't get through via nations that trade with the EU and have maintained a business-as-usual relationship with Moscow. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, said the new package will "deal a further blow to Putin's war machine with tightened export restrictions."



A brawl broke out at the prison between members of rival gangs Barrio 18 and the Mara Salvatrucha.

Kazakhstan abruptly announces it will no longer host Syria talks, amid Russian surprise

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Kazakhstan abruptly said on Wednesday it will stop hosting talks aimed at resolving the Syrian conflict that erupted 12 years ago. The decision was a surprise to Russia and other participants at the wrapping up of the 20th round of talks held in the capital, Astana. Since 2017, the former Soviet nation has provided a venue for talks to representatives of Russia, Turkey, Syria and Iran on ways to resolve the Syrian conflict. Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry said that the talks have fulfilled their mission and "the initial goals, including the creation of de-escalation zones, ending the bloodshed and reducing the number of casualties have been fully implemented."

Taiwan reports Chinese aircraft carrier sailed through strait

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: A Chinese aircraft carrier group led by the vessel Shandong sailed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait on Wednesday, Taiwan's defence ministry said, amid heightened military tension over the island. Beijing claims as its own territory. The ministry said the Shandong, commissioned in 2019, had sailed in a southerly direction through the western part of the strait.

Upholding sanctity of Parliament; a collective responsibility: NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf Wednesday said that the first ever Summer Internship Program for Young Citizen in National Assembly of Pakistan would provide an opportunity to young generation in form of a first-hand experience of legislative procedure.

He further stated that democracy entailed that Elected Parliamentary Representatives of people should make joint efforts to achieve prosperity.

The speaker also said that democracy was the only effective way of governance. In addition, he stated that Pakistan was destined to progress and its

young generation would lead the country onto the path of progress.

While emphasizing the need to bridge the gap between young generation and Parliament, he said, "Parliament is a place where political leaders work day and night to change the fate of nation." He further said that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto struggled and sacrificed her life for democracy.

Moreover, he said that she fought bravely against forces of tyranny and continued her struggle against dictatorship till her last breath.

He remarked that it was Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who gave right of

vote to our young generation.

The speaker also condemned the recent vandalism and desecration of monuments dedicated to nation's Martyrs, emphasizing the fact that it was impossible for a nation to progress if it did not respect its martyrs.

He stated that the onus was upon the young generation to preserve sanctity of Parliament.

While addressing the launching ceremony of the Internship Program, National Assembly Secretary, Tahir Hussain warmly welcomed the interns.

He remarked "Parliament is the house of people and it is fortunate that the

youth of this country are getting an opportunity to work at this prestigious institution, which will help them to understand democratic systems and the Constitution".

He encouraged the interns to ask questions as they wanted during the course of their internship as it would help them in better understanding of the Parliament, State and endeavours undertaken by parliamentarians for betterment of the people of Pakistan. On this occasion Additional Secretary (Special Initiatives) Syed Shamoon Hashmi outlined the basic contours of this first ever Summer Internship Program.



ISLAMABAD: Students of Jamia Hafsa shouting slogans during protest in favor of their demands at Blue area in the Federal Capital.

In age of growing global problems, countries should sit, find solutions: Hina Khar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar Wednesday underlined the need for the world community to work together to find out solutions to the growing global problems like climate change and refugees.

The minister, in an interview with the Voice of America (VoA Urdu), said Pakistan had close contacts with the Western world, including the institutional linkages, whether it were with the United States or the Europe Union (EU).

But at the same time, Pakistan also enjoyed close

strategic ties with China spanning over decades, she added.

Replying to question regarding US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent visit to China, she said, "Look at Pakistan, Pakistan has good relations with both. It is every sovereign country's right to pursue its rights, our interest is in having balanced and good relations with all the countries."

She further said if the atmosphere of competition was intensified in the world, it would be a very good example for other countries how to preserve such like relationship and

actually encourage them.

MoS Khar said the world was facing increasing issues like refugees influx and climate change problems.

"We all - the US, China, EU, Pakistan or India - have to sit together to find out solution to these issues. With different blocks, these problems cannot be resolved," she stressed. About the Indian prime minister's visit to the US, Hina Khar said Pakistan would always look positively to bilateral ties between sovereign countries and would not look negatively. There was no

need to look anything negatively.

But on the other hand, she maintained, Pakistan had a very belligerent neighbour who indulged into military adventurism by sending jets during 2019 which was unprecedented and unthinkable.

She said the world must look into this factor as well whether those being propagated for their role in the regional security deserved it.

"The world have to see whether there was conflict resolution due to them (India), then it did not au-

gur well for the region. We hope that nothing would go wrong for the region and Pakistan," she opined.

About ties with the EU, she said the GSP Plus status only could not define Pakistan's relations with them as their bilateral engagements were wider and broader at all levels, including the business contacts, institutional linkages, IT sector growth etc.

She said the GSP Plus not only benefited Pakistan, but also enhanced the EU's trade with Pakistan, adding Pakistan and the EU countries were engaged at different multilateral fora.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf along with other PPP Parliamentarians cutting cake to celebrate 70th Birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto in WPC.

PEMRA forms bodies for inclusion of web TVs & OTT content services in broadcast media

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) on Wednesday formed committees to ensure inclusion of website televisions (web TVs) and over-the-top (OTT) content services under the ambit of broadcast media services.

The decision to this effect was taken during the 177th meeting of PEMRA presided over by its Chairman Muhammad Saleem Baig, said a news release.

The forum also reviewed implementation of the decisions taken by the Authority during 176th

meeting.

It approved necessary amendments in PEMRA (Distribution Service Operations) Regulations 2011 as amended 2022 for notifying new tariffs in the Official Gazette.

Amendment in Clause 13(1) of PEMRA Rules 2009 related to the Landing Rights Permission Holder Channels was also accorded approval during the meeting.

It also approved a proposal for reviewing management change fee of satellite TV licenses.

The meeting gave approval to a proposal which was related to issuance of

FM radio licenses in the merged districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of erstwhile FATA through bidding process.

The forum also approved request of transferring ownership [rights] of satellite TV channel "Herald Entertainment" to M/s Jag Broadcasting System (Pvt.) Ltd from M/s Arora Broadcasting (Pvt.) Ltd.

Moreover, it approved request for change in management of M/s HB Media (Pvt.) Limited (Capital TV) and transfer of the company's shares to new directors and shareholders.

Shazia Marri vows to uphold Shaheed BB's mission

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Wednesday said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will always stand with the people of the country and fight against poverty, inflation and unemployment, following the mission of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto.

Paying tribute to Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto on her 70th birth anniversary, Shazia Marri said, "Her contributions to the restoration of democracy in the country will be remembered forever."

Addressing a news conference along with Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi, the federal minister said that the PPP leadership and its workers have rendered great sacrifices for upholding democratic values in the country.

Benazir Bhutto was not only the first woman Prime Minister of the country but of the entire Muslim Ummah giving a new perspective to the country's politics.

She took a number of unprecedented initiatives for empowering women including establishing Women Police Stations, and First Women Bank as well as launching the Lady Health Workers project.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri address a Press Conference on 70th Birthday of Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. Mr. Faisal Karim Kundi, MOS PA&SS is also present.

Contempt of EC case: CEC issues bailable arrest warrants of Fawad Chaudhry

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister Fawad Chaudhry did not appear in contempt of Election Commission (EC) case despite being summoned.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) while issuing bailable arrest warrants of Fawad Chaudhry has ordered him to appear in person on July 06.

The contempt of EC case against Fawad Chaudhry came up for hearing before a 5-member bench of EC presided over by CEC Sikandar Sultan

Raja Wednesday. Fawad Chaudhry did not appear despite being summoned.

Counsel for Fawad Chaudhry appeared before EC and requested for adjourning the hearing.

The counsel said IHC has reserved judgment on this case. CEC said decision has been announced on the matter of election commission show cause notice. We had summoned Fawad Chaudhry in person today. Fawad Chaudhry has not filed reply so far.

ICP crackdown on illegal immigrants, ensuring enhanced security measures

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital police is intensifying

and well-being of the city's residents, has witnessed a collaborative effort by various police stations. Notable



ing its efforts to tackle the issue of immigrants residing illegally in the federal capital, as part of an ongoing special security operation. Under the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the operation has resulted in the registration of 04 cases against 94 Afghan nationals, in accordance with the provisions of the 14 Foreign Act.

The operation, aimed at maintaining the security

among these are the Police Station Sabzi Mandi, Industrial Area, Noon and Police Station Bhara Kahu.

The proactive approach of the Islamabad capital police demonstrates its commitment to safeguarding the peace and prosperity of its citizens. The Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan emphasized that the operation would continue throughout different areas of the district.

FIA arrests Pervaiz Elahi again in money laundering case

LAHORE (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) Wednesday arrested former Punjab chief minister Pervaiz Elahi in the money laundering case.

The FIA officials demanded a 14-day physical remand of Pervaiz Elahi from the court.

It is to be noted here that Pervaiz Elahi had not been released despite bail from a special anti-terrorism court in Lahore.

Media plays important role in creating awareness among masses: Muqam

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to Prime Minister on Political, Public Affairs, National Heritage and Culture, Engineer Amir Muqam Wednesday lauding the role of media said that the forum was playing important role in creating awareness among the masses about public issues and promoting the national narrative.

Addressing 2nd One Day International Urdu Journalism Conference titled "Seventy-Five Years of Urdu Journalism" organized by National Language Promotion Department (NLPD), the adviser highlighted the role of Urdu journalism in the freedom movement and stability of Pakistan and adding that Urdu Journalists had rendered great sacrifices for the sake of the country and democracy.

Besides others, Federal Secretary National Heritage and Culture Fareena Mazhar, well-known literary figure Itikhar Arif, Senior Jour-

nalist Mujibur Rehman Shami, Hafeezullah Niazi, Ishfaq Hussain and Farhat Ullah Babar were also present on the occasion.

Amir Muqam said that the present government was committed to promoting Urdu language and taking all possible measures at all levels in that regard.

He said that Urdu journalism had played an important role in protecting human rights and democracy; and raising voice against economic injustices in the country.

The adviser said that one person had divided the nation, adding that PTI's narrative was anti-nationalism and anti-people.

He said that PTI protesters set Jinnah House and Radio Pakistan building on fire and destroyed other public properties on May 9.

He said that no patriotic person could be involved to burn the Jinnah House.



ISLAMABAD: Adviser to Prime Minister Engr. Amir Muqam inaugurating three days book fair.

Embassy of Azerbaijan celebrates Anniversary of Armed Forces

ISLAMABAD (Online): Embassy of Azerbaijan hosted a reception to observe the 105th Anniversary of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces here in a local hotel. Addressing at the ceremony, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Pakistan, Khazar Farhadov, said, "Azerbaijan celebrate the 105th anniversary of the establishment of the Armed Forces. Undoubtedly, the peak of the warpath of our National Army during this period is the glorious Victory gained in the Patriotic

War, Karabakh Victory. There has been no similar Victory in the centuries-old history of our nation".

He said that on June 26, 1918, by the decision of the Council of Ministers of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, the first regular military unit - the Combined Azerbaijan Corps was created.

The government set the task of creating an army of 25 thousand people. On August 1, 1918, the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan was established.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain in a group photo during the Pakistan Learning Conference organised by the Federal Ministry of FE&PT.

Strict action against smoke emitting vehicles ordered

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police has intensified action against smoke emitting and pressure horns vehicles for the purpose of environmental protection, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Capital City Police Officer Islamabad Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the Islamabad capital police have intensified the crackdown against vehicles causing environmental pollution and using pressure horns.

In this regard all Zonal DSPs have been directed to take stern action against vehicles involved in polluting the environment. Mobile squads of Islamabad capital police have been formed to implement the campaign against the smoke-emitting vehicles.

652,155 students of 143 varsities apply for PM's Youth Laptop Scheme

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Prime Minister's Youth Laptop Scheme 2022-23 has witnessed an overwhelming response from students across Pakistan, as 652,155 students of 143 universities have applied to acquire a personal laptop.

Following the successful conclusion of the PM's Youth Laptop Scheme Phase-I and Phase-II, wherein nearly one million laptops were distributed, as many as 100,000 laptops will be awarded to students, empowering students with the necessary tools to excel in their educational pursuits.

The process of selection of students for the award ensures fairness and transparency, as it involves multiple stages of

scrutiny and evaluation. The applications submitted by students are first reviewed and verified by the designated focal persons at their respective universities/HEIs. After initial screening, HEC generates the merit lists from online system. The merit list will be available online.

The Prime Minister's Laptop Scheme 2022-23 is aimed at providing students with modern technological resources, allowing them to enhance their educational experience and explore new avenues of knowledge. By equipping students with laptops, the scheme seeks to bridge the digital divide and empower young minds to actively participate in the digital age.



ISLAMABAD: Air Marshal Irfan Ahmed, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan Khazar Farhadov, Defense Attache Colonel Mehman Novruzov are cutting the cake along with others, on the occasion of the 105th Anniversary of the Azerbaijan Armed Forces, at Marriot Hotel in Federal Capital.

NHA completes key link road in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (INP) The National Highway Authority (NHA) has completed the construction of a key link road in Balochistan to reduce distance for Gwadar-bound traffic from Punjab and other northern parts of the country.

According to a recent statement of NHA's Member (West Zone) Shahid Ihsanullah, the Authority has completed work on the 106-kilometre-long Basima-Khuzdar Road (N-30), at a cost of Rs11.7 billion.

Shahid Ihsanullah said that currently, both light and heavy traffic is plying on the road and the Prime Minister will formally inaugurate the highway soon, he said. Jawad Akhtar Khokhar, a senior official at the CPEC Secretariat at the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, told Gwadar Pro that N-30 will reduce over 100 kilometres of distance for Gwadar-bound traffic from Punjab and northern parts of Sindh by connecting the Hoshab-Sorab Highway.

Ghulam Sarwar, his son, nephew arrested

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan has been arrested from Islamabad. Police have also arrested Mansoor Hayat son of Ghulam Sarwar Khan and his nephew Ammar Siddique. Police sources said these three were wanted in May 9 vandalism case and attack on judicial complex.

Very hot, humid weather expected in most parts of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Very hot and humid weather is expected in most parts of the country during the next twelve hours.

However, dust storm is expected in Northeast Balochistan. Temperature of some major cities recorded this morning: Islamabad and Peshawar twenty-nine degree centigrade, Lahore thirty-one, Karachi thirty, Quetta twenty-five, Gilgit and Murree sixteen and Muzaffarabad twenty-four degree centigrade.