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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 Economic 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

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

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

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai has revealed that we have 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



QUETTA: Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai speaking at a podium during a post-budget briefing.

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 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 we utilized Rs. 127 billion during the current financial year.

cal 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 improvement 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 utilized Rs. 127 billion during the current financial year.

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.

The court had asked questions about operations and finance in previous hearing. The replies to court's questions have been filed.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan inquired on this occasion how much aircrafts and crew PIA is having at present.

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

Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh presenting a souvenir to Commander 12 Corps Lt. General Asif Ghafoor during passing out parade of 14th Batch of ATF

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, resident of District Lakki Marwat) and Sepoy Abid Ullah (age 23 years, resident of District Karak) embraced martyrdom (shahadat).

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

The armed Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

According to its manifesto, Balochistan Awami Party gave relief to the people, which made life easier for the people and employees. The presented budget will increase employment opportunities, which will increase overall development.

He further added that public money has been spent on public health, education, security and construction budgets have been increased compared to previous years. Despite all the challenges, the provincial government has given relief to the people. The budget of the Balochistan government was a people-friendly budget which will greatly benefit the people.



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

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

Emphasizes it's responsibility of UNHCR to provide health, education and other basic facilities in Refugeees Hosting Areas of Balochistan

Independent Report

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

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QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of a ceremony organized by UNHCR

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

WASHINGTON: 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 Se-

curity 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

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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.

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.



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).

Contract addendum signing on Chashma-V a major step towards project execution: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has said that the signing of Addendum to the Contract on Chashma-V on Tuesday was a major step forward towards the construction of project.

On Twitter, the prime minister said the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant-V (C-V) would add 1200 megawatt of clean, affordable and reliable nuclear power to the system.

He said the project was part of the government's energy security plan to diversify the energy mix with a focus on ensuring the provision of cheap electricity to the industry and relief to the common man.

"Can't thank Chinese leadership enough for their continued trust in Pakistan and the prosperous future of our people. The project will be built with Chinese investment of \$3.48 billion. Despite the inflation since being signed in 2017, China National Nuclear Cooperation did not increase the project cost. Rather, it gave a discount of 750 million RMB (Rs 30 billion) on my request," the prime minister commented.

He said Pakistan-China iron brotherhood continued to deepen and the C-V vital project would add a new facet to that multilayered cooperative strategic partnership.



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

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.

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.

President approves Maternity and Paternity Leave Bill

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday gave his assent to the Maternity and Paternity Leave Bill, 2023.

Under the Bill, the women employees of the public and private departments under administrative control of the Federal Government will be entitled to avail maternity leave with full pay for three times during service - 180 days for first time, 120 days for second time and 90 days for third time.

Similarly, the male employees will be entitled to avail paternity leave of 30 days only for three times.

In case of violation, imprisonment of up to 6 months or fine of up to Rs 100,000 or both can be imposed.

The president approved the Bill under the Article 75 of the Constitution.

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, resident of District Lakki Marwat) and Sepoy Abid Ullah (age 23 years, resident of District Karak) embraced martyrdom (shahadat).

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any terrorists found in the area.

The armed Forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Inaugurates Margalla Avenue, Sikandar-r-Azam road PM calls upon nation, political parties to get together for country's uplift

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called upon the nation and all political parties to work together for bringing the country out of crisis and taking it to new heights of development.

He said the dream of a prosperous and developed Pakistan could only be fulfilled by rising above mutual differences, burying the conspiracies, and maintaining rule of law in the country.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony of Margalla Avenue here, the prime minister said the country possessed huge natural resources as it had the best minds and manpower as well.

"The only thing that laps is the will to do", he said adding that although it was a difficult task but not impossible to bring the country out of crisis.

He said all the initiatives were being taken for the development and prosperity of people of Islamabad and its attached areas.

However, he said due to the past government's criminal negligence, the citizens of the federal capital had to wait for years to enjoy their due facilities.

He said last year was

devastating both in terms of natural calamities and on the political front as the country faced devastating floods and the political opponents hatched conspiracies against the country. Their agenda surfaced on May 9, 2023 when everyone saw that what they did was even never thought by the enemy of Pakistan," he added.

He said despite the challenges, the CDA Chairman, former MNA Hanif Abbasi and his team who worked diligently to complete this project for which the people of Islamabad were waiting for years.

He said recently he visited Baku, where he saw smooth and clean roads and beautiful landscape and gardening along the roads.

He advised Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to take his team to Baku to get their first hand experience and apply in Pakistan as well. PM Shehbaz said today he also witnessed the signing of a MoU for a \$3.48 billion Chashma Nuclear Power Plant (C-5) which reflected the Chinese resolve to support Pakistan in difficult times.

He said Saudi Arabia, Qatar and UAE were also Pakistan's unmatched friendly countries that were also supporting Pakistan at

this difficult time.

The prime minister said his political opponents alleged him for getting big kick backs on China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects. "If that was true, Imran Khan should have presented the proof before the courts," he added.

He said the Chinese state owned company not only kept the cost of the C-5 project at the level agreed in 2017-18, but also on his personal request, the company gave discount of Rs 30 billion on the project.

He said former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif himself launched 5000 MW energy projects at a time when Pakistan was facing huge power load shedding.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said the prime minister had inaugurated an important road Margalla Avenue which connected new sectors of Islamabad with GT-Road.

He said the prime minister had also launched a historic Rs 20 billion package for rural areas of the federal capital.

Hanif Abbasi said the PML-N always worked for welfare of the people and the prime minister was famous across the world for his speed and his service for the people of his country.

PM to undertake two-day official visit to France from Thursday

ISLAMABAD (Online): At the invitation of Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will undertake an official visit to France to participate in the New Global Financing Pact Summit being held in Paris from 22-23 June 2023.

The Summit affords an opportunity for the leaders to discuss the contours of a new global architecture capable of meeting the challenges of financing sustainable development, environment, energy transition and climate change agenda.



QUETTA: National Youth Summit participants of National Youth Summit in a group photo with Provincial Minister for Sports Abdul Khaliq Hazara at the ending of Summit.

Pakistan's Saifullah Solangi bags three medals in Special Olympics power-lifting event

KARACHI (APP): To the great delight of Pakistan sports fans, Pakistan won as many as four medals in the ongoing Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany. Saifullah Solangi of Pakistan won one gold medal in the powerlifting event by lifting 90 kg in the back squat; another gold medal in Deadlift by lifting 115 kg weight and then in combined he lifted 245kg to secure a silver medal, said a communique here on Tuesday. He also won a bronze medal in Bench 40kg weight-lifting.

After the superb show, Saifullah was extremely happy and pledged to play with the same zeal and hard work to win more laurels for the country.

Saifullah's Head Coach Sajid Imran, & coach Razia Perveen were all praised Saifullah Solangi and said he had undergone a rigorous training schedule for the event and had worked really hard for the mega world event. "winning two gold, one silver and one bronze is a superb performance and he has made us proud, Sajid Imran said.

SSGC starts load-shedding in Sibi and surrounding areas

SIBI (INP): Sui Southern Gas Company started illegal load shedding of gas in Sibi and surrounding areas along with the lack of gas pressure continued day and night.

According to the details, due to lack of gas pressure and load-shedding by Sui Southern Gas Company in Sibi and surrounding areas, citizens suffered from problems due to lack of pressure in the morning, afternoon, and evening hours, due to which citizens started going to work without breakfast due to lack of gas pressure.

Because of this, women also started facing difficulties in cooking. On the other hand, the protest series by various social public figures and parties of Sibi could not work. The same social groups of Sibi demanded from the authorities of Sui Southern Gas Company that when the city gas bills were paid on time, then what was the justification for gas load-shedding in case of gas pressure? They further added that load-shedding of gas should be eliminated along with removing the lack of pressure in the area immediately.

We are using all resources to stop electricity theft, Kunda system: SDO

Independent Report

SIBI: Wapda owed thousands of rupees due to the government offices of Sibi. The electricity of several government offices has been cut off. SDO WAPDA Engineer Ali Bakhsh said that the government and private consumers must pay their arrears and monthly bills on time to show responsibility.

Electricity is the trust of the country and the people. No one will allow to thief electricity under any circumstances. It should be noted that WAPDA employees will perform their duties with protective equipment. A special campaign has been launched for the payment of bills in various areas, WAPDA's raiding teams are working under the supervision of SDO WAPDA Sibi Engineer Mir Ali Bakhsh under the patronage of XEN WAPDA Sibi Wrayam Manjum, he said.

SDO Wapda in a special conversation with the national news agency INP, said that at this time, many consumers, including the government offices in Sibi, have arrears of millions of rupees, for which a series of grand operations have been started.

The government offices under the administration, including Circuit

House, Levies, Assistant Commissioner's Office, PHE Department, Livestock Department, Forestry Irrigation Department, Excise Department, Education Department, Health Department, Local Government Department, Social Welfare Department, Food Department, Agriculture Department, and Police Department are under arrears, a special action is being taken for the arrears recovery, he added.

There are arrears for which special measures are being taken to collect, and the connections of many departments have also been cut off. Many development projects would be completed on time, he said.

While asking the public and private consumers to show responsibility by collecting their monthly and arrears bills on time.

Therefore, we are using all the resources for the complete elimination of the electricity theft Kunda system. WAPDA's raid is fulfilling its responsibilities in Marteme. Legal action will be taken against those who install electricity theft Kunda according to the WAPDA Act. Show your sense of responsibility, keep the light bulbs switched off, and play your role to prevent unnecessary use of electricity, he said.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Kakar visting stall during a ceremony on World Refugee Day.

Congress of US writes an open....

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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. That is why we respectfully request that - in addition to the many areas of shared interests between India and the U.S. - you also raise directly with Prime Minister Modi areas of concern.

You have rightly said that America must "lead not merely by the example of our power but by the power of our example." You have once again made respect for human rights, press freedom, religious freedom, and pluralism core tenets of American foreign policy. Moreover, these tenets are necessary to the functioning of true democracy. In order to these values with credibility on the world stage, we must apply them equally to friend and foe alike, just as we work to apply these same principles here in the United States.

A series of independent, credible reports reflect troubling signs in India toward the shrinking of political space, the rise of religious intolerance, the targeting of civil society organizations and journalists, and growing restrictions on press freedoms and internet access. Specifically, the State Department's 2022 Country Report on Human Rights Practices in India documents the tightening of political rights and ex-

pression. Similarly, the State Department's 2022 Report on International Religious Freedom in India details the worrisome increase of religious intolerance toward minorities and religiously motivated violence by both private and state actors. Further, the annual assessments compiled by Reporters Without Borders show that India, a country that has been known in the past for its vibrant and independent press, has fallen significantly in the rankings for press freedom. And according to Access Now, India ranks first in terms of the most internet shutdowns for the fifth year in a row.

Both the United States and India enshrined human rights—including free speech, freedom of the press, and religious freedom—in our constitutions. And we share a special bond through moral leaders who shaped our histories. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who gave his life in pursuit of building the beloved community here in the United States, was an ardent student of the teachings of the Mahatma Gandhi, known in India as the "Father of the Nation." Both King and Gandhi had the vision of building a more perfect union among people from different backgrounds, races and faiths—Gandhi in India, and King in the United States. We share your vision.

We join you in welcoming Prime Minister Modi to the United States. We want a close and warm relationship between the people of the United States and the people of India. We want that friendship to be built not only on our many shared interests but also on shared values. We do not endorse any particular Indian leader or political party—that is the decision of the people of India—but we do stand in support of the important principles that should be a core part of American foreign policy. And we ask that, during your meeting with Prime Minister Modi, you discuss the full range of issues important to a successful, strong, and long-term relationship between our two great countries.

District Administration organizes rally in Dalbandin

Independent Report

DALBANDIN: A rally was organized by the district administration in Dalbandin Bazar in memory of the Pakistan Army, FC Levies, and Police Force Martyrs who laid down their precious lives for the defense and security of Pakistan's land.

On this occasion, the leader Sardar Abdul Ghiyas Bardich, Assistant Commissioner Abdul Basit Buzdar, President of All Traders Dalbandin, Haji Agha Muhammad Hosni, Hafiz Muhammad Ismail Gurgej Bab-e-Chagai, Councilors, Sardar Sarfaraz Khan Panjuzai, Mir Saadullah Notizai, Malik Rashid Shahi, Ejaz Gul Notizai, Attallah Notizai SHO Dalbandin, Abdul Sattar Samalani, Zakir Lajai, and others were also present.

While addressing the participants of the rally, Assistant Commissioner Abdul Basit Buzdar and tribal leader Sardar Abdul Ghiyas Bardich said, "Pakistan Army is proud of the eternal sacrifices of FC Levies and Police Force martyrs, thanks to these martyrs, we have freedom."

They further said that Pakistan has become a superpower and an invincible force in the world today. We thanked the sacrifices of the brave soldiers of the FC Levies and Police Force. A collective prayer was offered to give patience to the bereaved.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque chairing a meeting during the MoU Signing Ceremony of TDM to IP and Copper Wire to Optical Fiber Cable Migration of NTC Exchanges Phase 2 at National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) Headquarters.

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.

According to the website of SETI, the California-based research institute of which he is a trustee, he lives in Britain with his wife and two children.

In a statement, Engro corporation said that all it knew was that contact was

lost with the submersible craft. "There is limited information available beyond this that we know, and we humbly request that speculation and theorisation is avoided," the company said.

"We, at Engro, remain in prayer for their swift and safe return, and will share updates we may have as and when they come," it added.

Another one of the passengers has been identified as British businessman Hamish Harding, whose aviation business had posted on social media about his expedition.

"It is a challenge to conduct a search in that remote area, but we are deploying all available assets to make sure that we can locate the craft and rescue the people on board," US Coast Guard Rear Admiral John Mauer told reporters in Boston, where he was overseeing the operation.

Time is a critical factor. The vessel has a range of 96 hours for the crew of five, and Mauer said on Monday afternoon he believed it still had 70 or more hours of remaining oxygen.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Bosnia & Herzegovina Sakib Foric called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House.

Issue of refugees should be...

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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.

Moreover, the gun culture and use of narcotics was also promoted in the whole region, and thus we had to face the terrorism, he added.

He emphasized that it is responsibility of UNHCR to provide education, health and other basic facilities to the refugees hosting areas.

He said that majority of the people are suffering from severe poverty and unemployment is also a common issue. So, the UNHCR should also start projects of learning modern skills to the local population while it is already engaged in imparting training to the refugees, he added.

Referring the country's deteriorating economic situation, Governor said that our educated people even the doctors and engineers are compelled to go abroad for earning livelihood. In this regard, he referred to the painful incident of boat capsizing in Greece which claimed lives of hundreds of Pakistanis. He said that expressing grief and sorrow over such incidents are not enough, rather we would have to pay attention on the social and economic condition of the country and nation so that such incidents may be prevented in future, he added. In the end, the Governor distributed commemorative shields among the organizers of the event.

Govt unveils Economic Revival...

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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.

"Let us resolve to work together, leave no stone unturned and be single minded in our focus and direction. We can transform the destiny of Pakistan and its people. It would, however, not happen without hard work and staying the course on the path of progress and development," he remarked.

PM Shehbaz said Pakistan and Pakistanis deserved nothing less from those who had been bestowed the responsibility to administer the country by Allah Almighty and the people.

Online adds: Prime Minister Shahbaz Shareef chaired high level meeting to review country overall economic situation and plan-B after having not staff level agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF). PM also reviewed the matter related to implementation of Plan-B.

Meanwhile PM also met Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir.

Army Chief and PM discussed national and internal matter of country including economic affairs.

According to govern-

Extension Of Date

With reference to the AB No. 486 / 29-5-2023, Projects titled as "Clearance of ROW of Link Road from Sabzal Samungil Cross Via Shaboo Road to Airport Road TSE- 222305328293" and AB No. 510 / 07-6-2023 "Clearance of ROW of New Road from Airport Road to Northern Bypass Nawakilli TSE- 222306336803 published in Jung Newspapers" are hereby extended till 4th July 2023, all other conditions remain same.

PROJECT DIRECTOR Chief Minister
Package for Quetta Development

AB No.532 / 20-06-2023

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?"



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

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.

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 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

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 protesters 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 Women

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-

mir, all of Pakistan welcomed the Daughter of Destiny, home to her people. Her jalsas pulled in massive crowds as the people of Pakistan prepared to overthrow another dictator, rallying together under the leadership of their beloved Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto. On October 18th, 2007, people came out in droves in Karachi for the most prominent political rally the nation had ever seen, welcoming her back as a ray of hope against the dictator Musharraf.

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.

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.



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?"

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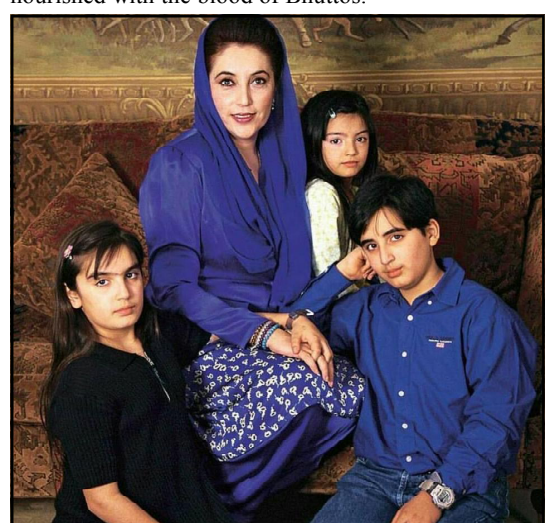
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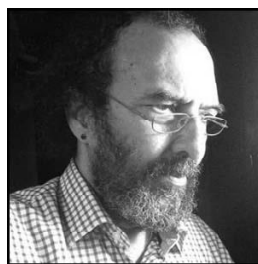
Wednesday June 21, 2023

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 HRCP 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.



Jawed Naqvi

John Pilger warned in a documentary about an imminent US war on China. There are those that worry it could erupt between China and India even sooner. Both scenarios could be right, and both are hopefully wrong. That the world economy is grappling with a looming recession doesn't help and it would be naive not to see its hand in the tragic Russia-Ukraine conflict. However, on the eve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first state visit to the US this week, it was interesting to see Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Beijing, the highest-ranking visit by a US official to China in years. That he was accorded an unscheduled meeting with President Xi Jinping could signal where the two countries are seek-

ing to be with each other, despite the baggage of recent history.

Moreover, Xi is almost certainly planning to be at this year's APEC meeting in San Francisco in November. That's when the heat would be building in the US presidential race. Spin-offs for President Joe Biden's electoral calculus in Xi's visit can't be discounted, depending on the news Blinken carries home from his meetings with top Chinese diplomats and Xi himself. The fact that Bill Gates was accorded a meeting with Xi a day before Blinken's arrival may indicate the side the bread is buttered for Sino-US ties. To reinforce the trajectory, Elon Musk just left Beijing singing praises of China.

Unlike the current Indian dispensation, which leans on Mr Modi for every important diplomatic messaging or economic negotiation, the Chinese operate at several fronts and at various levels. China's prime minister began key visits to Germany and France while his foreign minister dealt with Blinken. Among the objectives is to remind Europe of the peril it has landed itself in by

mindlessly following the US dog-whistle on Ukraine, in most cases less than enthusiastically.

A tentative de-linking of economic perspectives seems visible. Consider the fact that while the US Fed has not raised its interest rates this time around, indicating some degree of economic stabilisation, music to Biden's ears, European banks had to tweak the rates still higher to combat their inflation. In this chaos, the Chinese are looking the most composed, relatively. Whatever be the substance of the Blinken talks, Beijing, like Arjuna the warrior prince in the epic Mahabharata, has kept its sights riveted to the eye of the moving fish to shoot the arrow at. The fish is Taiwan, a non-negotiable reality for the Xi presidency.

Still, the Chinese are diligently following the Modi visit but without any evident malice towards New Delhi. The Global Times works under the Chinese Communist Party. There were two useful comments the paper offered on India's burgeoning ties with Washington. A pocket cartoon showed an elephant and a panda as boxers in the

ring, gloves on, and raring to go at each other, while Uncle Sam, playing the referee albeit from outside the ring, is shouting: "Fight, Fight, Fight." There's no mistaking who or what the two boxers represent.

In a separate commentary on the visit, the paper applauded India's industrial prowess and its growing economic sinews. It also had some handy advice, which could be dismissed as gratuitous had it not ticked several boxes, which are of concern to a whole host of Indians.

The Global Times noted that India's economy has developed rapidly, achieving a robust growth of 7.2 per cent last year. "Clearly, India is entering a period of rapid growth. The government attempts to drive growth through pushing several long-term projects, reforms to build a robust financial system and increase supply-side adjustments," the paper said, but it also cautioned. "These correct choices also make it necessary for India to make profound changes for the competence of the population and the labour force in the future, essentially a secularised spiritual

overhaul, which can build a solid foundation for India's opening up. This is the way India can become a leading global economy; and what can the US' strategy bring to India?"

Moreover, India needs all-embracing reforms like China's. Had China not adopted a 'two-wheel drive policy' of reform and opening-up more than 40 years ago, it would not be the second-largest economy in the world. "The status of China and India in the world will depend on their respective attitudes toward embracing the world." Sage advice.

Mr Modi is being accorded a rare second address to the US Congress during the trip. Five previous prime ministers have addressed the Congress, once each, beginning with Jawaharlal Nehru. The issues have been constant, but the finesse with which they were presented varied. Indra Gandhi was received with aplomb by Ronald Reagan but denied the opportunity the others got of speaking to the Congress, retribution for her defence pact with the USSR. The pact's benefits have not stopped accruing, however, includ-

ing to Modi's India, as enshrined in special ties with Moscow. Nehru had a clearer idea of what India sought without compromising its sovereignty.

"I have come here on a voyage of discovery of the mind and heart of America and to place before you our own mind and heart," he told the US Congress in 1949.

"We realise that self-help is the first condition of success for a nation, no less than for an individual. We are conscious that ours must be the primary effort and we shall seek succour from none to escape from any part of our own responsibility. But though our economic potential is great, its conversion into finished wealth will need much mechanical and technological aid.

"We shall, therefore, gladly welcome such aid and cooperation on terms that are of mutual benefit. ... But we do not seek any material advantage in exchange for any part of our hard-won freedom." That hard-won freedom will be on test during the Modi trip. -- Courtesy Dawn

If China and US normalise ties

Drowning to live



Mosharraf Zaidi

The capsizing of a fishing trawler off the coast of Greece has shocked many around the world. At least 78 have died and several hundred remain missing.

Pakistan was reportedly the most well represented nation on the boat. The Foreign Office has reported that 12 Pakistanis have been identified among those whose bodies have been found - many more, perhaps hundreds, remain unaccounted for. CNN has reported a Pakistani official source claiming that 300 Pakistanis may have died. Already the dissembling and performative aches and pains of a helpless and hapless state and societal elite has begun.

As I write these words on the 'day of mourning' for the middle-class men and women that died fleeing this place, the outcome of the

inquiries, the outrage and the flagellation in the discourse is the only thing about Pakistan that is guaranteed. The third-tier criminals that are the last mile of the supply chain that ends with Pakistanis jumping off HMS Sohni Dharti will face some jail time, maybe even serious jail time. But the first-tier criminals that are the plantation owners, the executive producers, the lead conductors and chief engineers of this tragic Rock Bottom Enterprise? They will continue to spray Zippo lighter fluid across the length and breadth of the land, burning down whatever semblance of order remains.

For evidence, one need not look further than the budget document foisted upon the country last week. Ishaq Dar is seized by the interests of the PML-N, we are told. Of course, he will do what he is doing. But what is it exactly that he is doing? He is essentially trying to find enough oxygen for the state to survive past the expiry date of the current government. What happens to Pakistan the day after? Ishaq Dar, we are told, doesn't care - he is the one that keeps telling us, in his charming Shahzeb

Khanzada side manner. This is a strange flex for the Pakistani elite to keep trotting out. "I was wronged" and now "I don't care". Or the more powerful, "It isn't right, but the country must be saved".

The newest means of saving Pakistan is to convert the most passionate consumers of the fictions that the military itself manufactured into the most toxic critics of the same military. Why would a country hound the honourable lawyers that it is lucky to have? How does this keep happening? What are the short-, medium- and long-term effects of the constant throwing of the constitution into the shredder? It is exit.

I was first given the gift of Albert Hirschman's 'Exit, Voice and Loyalty: Responses to Decline in Firms, Organizations and States' by a professor that instituted the essay as part of my masters in 1999. By that time, Exit, Voice and Loyalty was almost thirty years old - older than me then, and much older than the Pakistani median age of 23.

Hirschman's framework helps us understand what motivates the dy-

namic between individuals and systems in terms of sticking to a system versus choosing to leave it. Voice and loyalty are, therefore, really important elements in determining the ultimate outcome. If you have a voice in a system, and this voice matters, and you use it, and this use ends up making a difference, this is likely to limit the chances of your exit. Concurrent to this, in Hirschman's own words, "The importance of loyalty from our point of view is that it can neutralize within certain limits the tendency of the most quality-conscious customers or members to be the first to exit."

Put more simply, if you have loyalty to a system, you are likely to be able to endure failures or weaknesses in the system. Both these elements - the element of voice and the element of loyalty - are however bounded and limited. No real-life situation is ever analogous to the frameworks constructed on desks, or laptops, or in laboratories, or in boardrooms.

But Exit, Voice and Loyalty offers a powerful means of assessing, dispassionately what hap-

pened prior to the capsizing of that fishing trawler off the coast of Greece, the choices made by consumers of 'dunkie', the market failures that enable illegal and extremely risky migration, and the quantum of effort that states like Pakistan are now being forced to invest in keeping some people outside its borders and other people within.

Despite being given enormous leeway by my editors, this column cannot fully explore the entire spectrum of these questions - but we can make three quick observations that have a relatively rich evidence base. The first is the kind of median age Pakistani that ends up 'dunkie lagana' on those fishing trawlers and boats that transport people from North Africa (especially Libya) across the Mediterranean to the land of honey and milk - aka Gorgia Meloni's Italy or Kyriakos Mitsotakis's Greece.

It is really quite simple: bottom quintile Pakistanis cannot afford to get themselves on these economic opportunity cruise lines. Without paying illegal human smug-

glers several hundred thousand, and often several million rupees, you simply cannot get to the border, what to say of getting on and off the trucks, planes, trains and automobiles that end with embarking upon the boats and ships of death that are plying the Mediterranean. That kind of money is available only to those that have assets that can be converted into the hard cash that then gets converted into the illusion of a better life in Europe or beyond.

The primary question this should prompt for Imran Khan, Nawaz Sharif, Asif Ali Zardari and the spectrum of officers and offices of the state - deep and shallow - is why those intergenerational assets (usually land) is so readily being sold for such a high stakes gamble in which losing means drowning at sea, or being shot during a daring border crossing, or suffocating whilst in the air or in a box somewhere hiding one's way from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to the inflation, racism and demographic deficit of 21st century Europe. -- Courtesy TheNews

A close call



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 depriva-

tion of the coastal villages and islands. Small 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, Am-phan, 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 district 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. Jogezi

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-kinesthetic, 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 homogenous 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 rep-ression 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 awareness, 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

Announces 35pc adhoc relief for Govt employees KP Govt authorizes Rs462.426bn expenditure for four months

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Government here on Tuesday authorized Rs462.426 billion expenditure for four months (July 1 to October 31, 2023) and announced 35 percent adhoc relief allowance for its employees BS 1 to 16 and 30 percent from BS 17 and above and 17.5 percent in pension of all pensioners.

Presenting the salient features of authorized expenditure for the above four months, Adviser to the chief minister for finance and energy, Himayat Ullah Mayar here said that Rs350.041 billion was fixed as total authorized current expenditure, Rs309.498 bln for settled current expenditure, Rs40.543 bln for newly merged areas (NMA) current expenditures for the said four months.

On the development side, he said the authorized development expenditure for July 1 to October 31, 2023, is Rs112.385 billion, the settled development expenditure is Rs92.122 bln and NMA's Rs20.263 bln for the said months.

As many Rs8.667 bln expenditure for the Annual

Development Programme, Rs1.263 bln for FPA and Rs10.333 bln for Accelerated Implementation Program of NMAs were authorized for the said four districts.

The Adviser announced 50pc increase in traveling allowance for all Provincial Government employees, 100pc increase in special conveyance allowance for disabled employees and an increase in orderly allowance from Rs14,000 per month to Rs25,000 per month.

Besides 50pc increase in deputation allowances and 100pc in secretariat performance allowance, the Adviser also announced the extension of executive allowance to officers of special duty an increase of minimum wages from Rs26,000 per month to Rs32,000pm and ration allowance of police and jails from Rs68 lpm to Rs1000pm respectively.

The KP Adviser for Finance said that 10 percent of the allocated funds would be released positively for ongoing projects of a sector at the start of fiscal year and the administrative department would ensure releases for the completion of ongoing

schemes while subsequent releases would be made on the provision of utilization certificate of at least 90 percent of the already released fund.

He announced a complete ban on new schemes and no release to be made in the names of individuals with respect to umbrella schemes.

Himayat Ullah said that 100 percent release in salaries and utility charges besides financial assistance to the families of deceased in Government Service would be provided.

He said that 25 percent releases shall be made to all medical teaching institutions.

The Adviser announced a complete ban on recruitment, creation of new posts excluding completed development projects, purchase of vehicles except for ambulances, earth moving machinery and fire trucks, participation in seminars on Govt funds and workshops on five stars hotels and abroad treatment on govt expenses.

He said no appointment would be made against vacant posts except by promotion and no recruitment in dying cadre.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presides over the meeting of WAPDA and Sui Gas officials regarding people complaints about load shedding of electricity and Gas.

Kundi takes notice of public complaints about BISP payments

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday took notice of the public complaints regarding recent payments of the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP).

In a statement, the minister said an inquiry was being conducted against Bank Al-Falah to probe its links down and other system issues on payment centers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He said the poor people were facing difficulties due to non payment of their stipend, adding, the high ups of the bank were contacted in that regard.

The BISP secretary was investigating the matter of non-payment of stipend to women for two days, he mentioned.

Faisal Kundi said the strict action would be taken against the bank involved in this negligence.

"No inappropriate behavior will be tolerated towards the beneficiary women of BISP across the country," he added.

He said the police officials guilty of violence against women in Charsada had been suspended immediately and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Inspector General of Police also ordered an inquiry against that police personnel.

CJ PHC pays maiden visit to district court Khyber

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court on Tuesday visited District Courts Khyber.

It was a historical maiden visit of a female Chief Justice to a merged district.

During her visit, she inaugurated the extension of sub-jail Barra, the project of rehabilitation of Courts and allied facilities at District Courts, Jamrud and lastly, sub-Jail Jamrud was thoroughly visited.

At Barra, her ladyship was warmly received by the District and Sessions Judge, Inspector General of prisons, Deputy commissioner, DPO and XEN C&W.

After inaugurating the extension block of Sub Jail Barra, the District and Ses-

sions Judge in his welcome remarks felicitated her ladyship for becoming the voice of the voiceless and savior of the neglected section in the justice system.

The extension of sub-jail Barra was termed a "blessing" by the inmates who previously were living in pigeonholes and had no access even to sunlight.

With this extension, the foremost misery of the inmates regarding provision of space was resolved on one hand while on the other a suitable environment was ensured to them.

The Chief Justice expressed her satisfaction, however impressed upon IG Prisons to provide educational and sporting facilities for the prisoners.

WHO Representative Donates Medicines worth Rs 60 mln to KP health department

PESHAWAR (APP): Dr. Palitha Mahipala, World Health Organization (WHO) Representative in Pakistan, Tuesday visited the Director General Health Services (DGHS) in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and inaugurated the organization's camp office located within the DGHS premises, emphasizing the importance of close coordination between WHO and the health department.

In a significant gesture of support, Dr. Mahipala handed over essential medicines worth Rs 60 million to Dr. Shaikat Ali, the Director General of Health Department in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

DG Health, Dr. Shaikat Ali, expressed his gratitude for the generous contribution from WHO, recognizing the critical role

it would play in addressing healthcare needs in the region. The donated medicines from WHO Pakistan include Artemether, Primaquine, Glucan time injections (46,500 quantity), Malaria kits PF/PV, and other essential medicines.

Considering recent windstorm incidents in Banu, DI Khan, Lakki Marwat, and Karak, resulting in injuries and increased health-related needs.

The WHO also provided essential medicines specifically for the affected patients to the Department of Health in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Director General Health KP, also conveyed his appreciation for the support received from WHO in times of need, particularly highlighting their prompt and continuous assistance during flood response efforts.

Additionally, recognizing the cases of leishmaniasis, Dr. Mahipala donated Glucan time injections to address the disease.

This contribution further demonstrates WHO's commitment to combating illnesses and promoting public health in Pakistan. Dr. Palitha Mahipala also visited the Lady Reading Hospital, the largest healthcare facility in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Inaugurating the Nutrition Stabilization Center (NSC) supported by WHO Pakistan, Dr. Mahipala emphasized the critical role it would play in providing life-saving treatment and care to severely acute malnourished (SAM) children and improving the health of families in the area.



KARACHI: Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh, Ghulam Nabi Memon presides over the high level meeting held at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

Minister inspects pace of work on irrigation sector projects

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Irrigation Minister Haji Fazl Elahi visited Warsak Left Bank System in district Khyber and inspected the pace of work on ongoing projects and related Kabul Canal Head and the Warsak system on the right bank of Kabul River.

Chief Engineer (South) Engineer Yasin Khan, and Superintendent Engineer Peshawar Engineer Baatur Zaman Khan were also present along with the Provincial Irrigation Minister.

Executive Engineer Peshawar Canal Division

Peshawar Engineer Saifullah Khan and Executive Engineer Warsak Canal Division Peshawar Engineer Mamreez Khan along with their staff gave a detailed briefing to the Provincial Irrigation Minister.

The minister appreciated the progress of work with the operation/maintenance of infrastructure. While giving instructions, he said that the good work should be continued and the quality should be given full attention so that the Irrigation Department and the public can get the benefits.

Haji Fazal Elahi, in a

Jinnah House attack: ATC remands 17 accused in police custody

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday handed over 17 accused to police on 7-day physical remand in Jinnah House attack case.

Earlier, the police produced 19 accused before ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan after an identification parade.

The investigation officer submitted that 17 accused were identified but two accused could not be identified in an identification parade held at the jail. He requested the court to grant physical remand of 17 accused for investigation.

At this, the court discharged accused, Naeemul Haq and Arslan, from the case after not being identified.

Huge quantity gutka seized, one arrested

KARACHI (APP): The district Keamari Police on Tuesday seized a huge quantity of hazardous gutka from an empty plot and arrested an involved accused.

According to SSP Keamari Fida Hussain Janwari, a team of Saeedabad Police Station in a raid recovered 4650 packets of hazardous gutka from an empty plot in Sector 12F, Saeedabad area.

An accused identified as Ali Muhammad was arrested from the spot while his other accomplice namely Raheel managed to escape. The accused used to bring the gutka from Hub and conceal it in the plot. They used to supply it in late night hours. A case had been registered and further investigations were underway.



KARACHI: View of site after fire eruption incident in a slum due to unknown reasons, while residents restored their makeshift houses, at Super Highway road nearby Jamali Bridge.

KIU, Edu dept join forces to strengthen quality edu. thru digital platform

GILGIT (Online): Under the esteemed guidance of the Chief Secretary and Vice-Chancellor, the Department of Education and KIU's Local Challenge Fund (LCF) project team, led by Dr Aftab Ahmed Khan, have joined forces to provide cutting-edge Campus Management Systems to eight government schools in Gigit-Baltistan.

It informed that the LCF project team will facilitate training sessions to ensure a seamless transition to the new digital platforms.

Caretaker minister Javed inaugurates VCs conference

LAHORE (INP): Caretaker Provincial Health Minister Dr Javed Akram inaugurated a four-day conference on "Leadership and Management of Vice Chancellors" organized by Punjab Higher Education Commission at a local hotel on Tuesday.

Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Dr. Shahid Munir and vice chancellors of various universities attended the conference. PHEC Chairperson Prof Dr Shahid Munir highlighted the objectives of the Vice Chancellors' Leadership Conference. The provincial health minister said that the quality

of universities could be further improved by utilizing administrative skills.

He said the Department of Specialized Healthcare and Medical Education was also introducing a leadership programme for doctors. "We are trying to provide better healthcare facilities to patients coming to the government hospitals of Punjab" he added. Chairman Punjab Higher Education Commission Prof. Dr. Shahid Munir said the purpose of vice chancellors' training was to improve the efficiency of responsibilities and administrative skills.

8 injured in fire erupted in Legnum Tower

RAWALPINDI (APP): Eight persons including two children here on Tuesday were injured due to a fire in Legnum Tower.

According to details released by the spokesperson Rescue 1122, the incident took place on the 10th floor of the tower located in DHA-2. Fire brigade and rescue personnel reached the spot and took part in rescue operations, the injured have been shifted to the hospital after first aid.

The injured were identified as Kashif 29, Tahir Mehmood 40, Asia bibi 38, Sarim Mehmood 10, Sana Mehmood 6, Hamad 20, Haider Shah 23 and Zeeshan 18 who received injuries due to the fire.

Police arrest 24 suspects, hashish recovered

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Dera police have arrested 24 suspects recovering hashish during search and strike operations conducted in different areas.

According to a police spokesman, the operation was conducted in the area of Zafarabad Colony, Gandapur Chowk, Sher Shah Suri Town, Wanda Dhawa and adjoining areas in the limits of Dera Town police station under the leadership of SDPO Muhammad Saleem Baloch along with SHO Khalid Javed Lashari.



KARACHI: Newly Elected Mayor, Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad address to media persons during press conference held.

Wall-chalking, plastic bags to be completely banned in Karachi: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that Karachi will be made a 'Clean & Green' city after removing wall-chalking and banning plastic bags in the city by ensuring strict implementation of laws.

He said this while presiding over a meeting of departmental heads after reaching the KMC head office on Tuesday. He said that one window operation will be started to provide services and other facilities.

On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad said that we thank the citizens of Karachi for the trust they have placed in us.

He said that his first priority is to stabilize Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) financially while cleaning of drains is the topmost challenge at this time, therefore measures should be taken

to deal with the rains of the monsoon season. The citizens will see a change, in the next hundred days, he added. On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad and Municipal Commissioner KMC Syed Afzal Zaidi were also present.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab received a warm welcome on his arrival at the head office of KMC with deputy mayor Salman Abdullah Murad as the officers and other employees of KMC greeted and showered with rose petals.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that in order to improve the basic infrastructure of the city, maintenance of roads and provision of street lights will be done on a priority basis. KMC hospitals will be improved so that citizens can get proper medical facilities there, he added.



LAHORE: Youngsters jumping and bathing in canal during hot weather in Provincial Capital.

Regional Head Sukkur listened complaints against SPECO, SSGC in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): On the special directives of Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi, Regional Head Federal Ombudsman at Sukkur Syed Mehmood Ali Shah heard complaints against Sukkur Electric Supply Company (SPECO) and Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) in Open Court held at the Provincial Ombudsman's Office, Larkana, on Tuesday.

Revenue Officer SEPCO Larkana, R O SEPCO Kambars-Shahdaddot, Executive Engineer (Rural) SEPCO and other related officers, while on behalf of Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC), Deputy Chief Manager Larkana, other officers of SSGC Larkana and petitioners also appeared and presented their issues against SEPCO and SSGC including complaints of over-reading and deduction.

However, 20 complaints were received against SSGC and 20 were reviewed and decided. Regional Head Syed Mehmood Ali Shah directed the officials of SEPCO and SSGC that their overbilling and deduction bills should be deducted and their problems and grievance should be resolved within 30 days.

He also directed the SEPCO authorities to take strict legal action against the meter readers for over-reading.



KARACHI: A view of the massive traffic jam outside Liaqatabad Super Market due to the over parking of cars, which needs the attention of concern authorities.



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.

Collector Customs says: Technical glitches in EFS to be removed

LAHORE (APP): Collector Customs 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 Sambaial Nayar Shafiq and Additional Collector Farah Farooq also accompanied her on the occasion.

Chairman APTMA North Zone Hamid Zaman, Senior Vice Chairman Kamran Arshad and Secre-

tary General Raza Baqir welcomed the team. Technical staff from member mills also attended the workshop.

Collector Customs Lahore said that all steps were being taken to promote the EFS, as it was very close to their hearts. She said the prime objective of the Scheme was to streamline the exports in order to earn precious foreign exchange for the country.

According to her, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) would ensure all measures to make the EFS user friendly for the exporters community.

"The queries raised in today's workshop would help in removing the discrepancies in the scheme," she maintained.



KARACHI: Residents of PECHS Society Block 2 are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity load shedding in their area, outside K-Electric office in Karachi.

Zong 4G launches IDD Saudi Arabia Mobil Bundles for Intl Callers during Hajj

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication operator in Pakistan, has introduced a range of International Direct Dialing (IDD) Saudi Arabia Mobil Bundles, empowering international callers during the sacred journey of Hajj.

Understanding the significance of staying connected with loved ones while embarking on this spiritual pilgrimage, Zong 4G offers affordable IDD bundles exclusively for calls to Saudi Arabia on the Mobility network said a news release issued here on Tuesday.

These bundles ensure seamless connectivity for

individuals throughout the Hajj season and beyond. Zong 4G recognizes the need for reliable and cost-effective communication, especially during important events like Hajj. The IDD Saudi Arabia Mobil Bundles enable customers to effortlessly connect with their families and friends, sharing precious moments and seeking blessings from afar.

One of the standout features of Zong 4G's offering is its competitive rates. Customers can enjoy the most attractive rates available in the market, ensuring cost-effective communication with their loved ones in Saudi Arabia.



QUETTA: Vendor sells fruits to earn his livelihood for support his family, at a roadside located on Anscorb road in Quetta.

Roundtable Conference on Pak options for economic turnaround

LAHORE (APP): The current economic situation is difficult and demands a concrete planning to start an upward growth trajectory. These views were expressed by the experts while speaking at a Roundtable Conference on Pakistan's Options for Economic Turnaround here at Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Vice President Adnan Khalid Butt, Head of Economic Department, LUMS Dr. Syed Ali Hasnain and Chairman Economic Affairs Committee of Jamaat-e-Islami Asif Luqman Qazi spoke on the occasion.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar said that the country is currently facing serious economic challenges which demands immediate Charter of Economy by the political parties.

LCCI President also emphasized on political stability, economic restruc-

turing, tax on agriculture, agricultural reforms, privatization of State Owned Enterprises, self reliance, expert opinion, mines and mineral policy, ease of doing business, administrative measures, expansion of tax base, human capital development, reduction in expenditures, Islamic system and increase in productivity.

He said that recently, the federal government has presented the Finance Bill 2023-24. There is an urgent need to look at the current situation of the economic problems being faced by the country with a comprehensive approach apart from the budget because the country cannot afford any more economic depression.

He said that until the problems of the local industry are not resolved, the economy could not grow. He said that industries have to import a lot of raw materials, essential compo-

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 Nawaaz, 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 in 26 major cities across Pakistan, including Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur, Larkana, Dadu, and Shikarpur, as well as other cities in Punjab, Balochistan, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The minister further added that this migration will make NTC networks more active, secure, and faster than before. It will significantly reduce complaints and technical issues while also minimizing operational expenses.

Government institutions and departments, he said, will be provided with the best services and bandwidth in information and communication technology, along with data services.

Syed Aminul Haque mentioned that the project will cost more than Rs. 2 billion and is expected to be completed within a year.

NTC will bear the entire cost of the project, without any financial burden on the national exchequer.

He highlighted a previous project where 147 exchanges across the country were converted to IP and optical fiber cables from TDM (Time Division Multiplexing) and copper wires, with a cost of Rs 1.65 billion 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.



HYDERABAD: Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) beneficiaries standing in a queue to get the cash money from BISP center at Latifabad.

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Embassy of Sweden in Pakistan in partnership with Business Sweden - the Swedish Trade & Invest Council hosted a report launch event: "Rebuild for a resilient Pakistan". 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

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 co-operating 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.

to build new dams and reservoirs. "We should also expand the solar energy network as we still get less than five percent of our energy needs from it. Pakistan has to import more than US \$ 20 billion worth of crude oil to meet its needs."

He said that the outstanding debts & liabilities of Public Sector Enterprises have reached Rs 2141 billion in March 2023, which is a huge burden on the country's economy. A clear plan for reduction should be drawn up.

Kashif Anwar said that the promotion of industrialization in the country is almost impossible without reducing the cost of doing business. The industries are facing problems like high policy rate in history which has reached 21 percent, inflation rate is 38 percent, high energy cost, devaluation of rupee. In this situation, it has become more difficult for the exporters to compete in foreign markets. There is a need to work on an emergency basis in this regard as well.

He appreciated the government's initiative to issue SRO to promote barter trade with Iran, Afghanistan and Russia. "We request that the implementation of this SRO should be ensured so that the pressure on domestic currency can be reduced due to shortage of dollars."

He said that the government also needs to attract private investment

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 Preferences (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 Crafts Business through IP, Branding, and Commercialization Strategies organized by the Intellectual Property Organization of Pakistan.

Rupee gains 04 paisas against US Dollar in interbank

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday gained 04 paisas against the US Dollar (USD) in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs 287.21 against the previous day's closing of Rs 287.25.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs 290.5 and Rs 293 respectively.

The price of the Euro went up by Rs 0.7 to close at Rs 313.98 against the last day's closing of Rs 313.91, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Gold prices decline by Rs.200 to Rs220,500 per tola

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs.200 and was sold at Rs.220,500 on Tuesday against its sale at Rs. 220,700 the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.171 to Rs189,043 from Rs. 189,214 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs.173,290 from Rs. 173,447, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

PSX gains 31 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) gained 31.81 points on Tuesday, a slight positive change of 0.08 per cent, closing at 40,653.03 points against 40,621.22 points the previous day. A total of 124,856,236 shares were traded during the day as compared to 179,780,375 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.4,031 billion against Rs. 5,624 billion on the last trading day. As many as 311 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 106 of them recorded gains and 179 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 26 companies remained unchanged. The three top-trading companies were K-Electric Ltd with 9,921,992 shares at Rs. 1.59 per share.

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.

Chinese car maker to continue production despite challenges

BEIJING (APP): Vice President of Great Wall Motors Shi Qingke said that his company encountered car parts shortages, similar to most of other automotive companies. However, the problem has been considerably mitigated, and there is no issue with the supply chain.

"Starting this year, Pakistan has encountered challenges in the automotive industry. Many import-dependent industries and manufacturing sectors are grappling with production shutdowns and halts," explained the vice president of Great Wall Motors.

Last year on September 1st, in an event held in Lahore, Great Wall Motors (GWM)'s first factory in Pakistan officially commenced production, with an annual production capacity of 20,000 units. Adding to the excitement, on November 17, the GWM Haval H6 HEV made its official debut in Lahore.

This news sent

shockwaves through the industry as it signifies several groundbreaking achievements, notably being the "first locally assembled new energy hybrid model" in Pakistan.

"Great Wall Motors is the first brand to achieve local assembly of hybrid vehicles in Pakistan, surpassing even Japanese brands, which have been deeply rooted in Pakistan for over 30 years," Shi shared.

He further stated, "Moving forward, GWM will progressively introduce plug-in hybrids and fully electric models, bringing the latest in new energy technology to Pakistan and facilitating the country's transition from traditional fuel-powered vehicles to new energy vehicles."

Since the implantation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Pakistan, with its immense market potential and economic vitality driven by a population of 220 million, has attracted the attention of numerous foreign investors.



LAHORE: Vendors displaying the sacrificial animals to attract the customers at Johar Town in connection with upcoming Eidul Azha.

Germany prods China on Ukraine war as leaders pledge to work together on climate

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: Germany's chancellor pressed China to lean harder on Russia over its war in Ukraine on Tuesday, while leaders from both countries pledged to work together to combat climate change as two of the world's biggest carbon dioxide emitters.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz and about half of his Cabinet hosted a delegation led by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, making his first foreign trip since becoming China's No. 2 official in March, as the two nations held high-level government consultations for the seventh time.

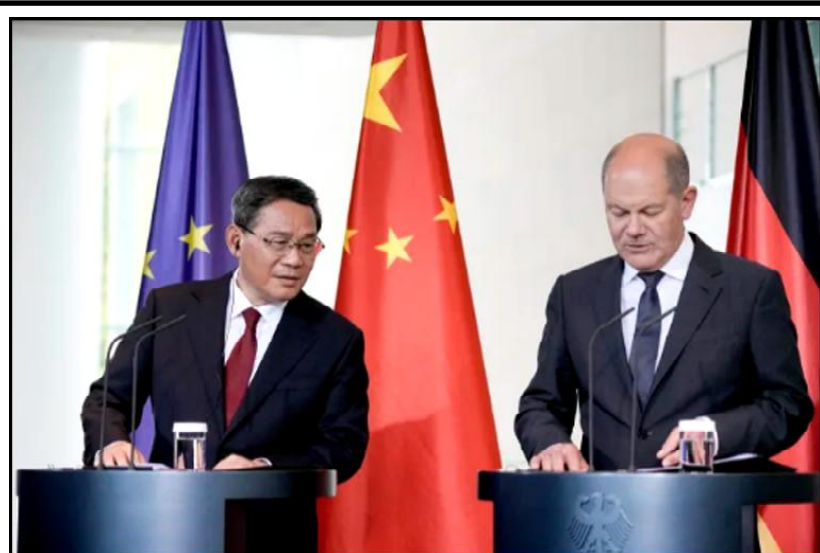
The meeting in Berlin comes a day after Chinese President Xi Jinping met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, indicating an effort by Beijing to reach out to the West and improve frosty relations.

Germany is keen to maintain good ties with China, its biggest trading partner, despite wariness over Beijing's growing assertiveness and refusal to criticize the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Germany's recently published national security strategy describes China as "a partner, competitor and systemic rival."

Scholz prodded the Chinese delegation to do more to persuade Russia to end the war in Ukraine.

"I appealed again to the Chinese government to exert its influence even more strongly on Russia in this war," he said, standing alongside Li. "As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China carries a very special duty here."

"It is important that China continues not to de-



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and Chinese Premier Li Qiang, brief the media following government consultations of the both countries at the chancellery in Berlin, Germany.

Kremlin says after Xi-Blinken talks it's confident in China-Russia ties

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia is not worried about potential U.S. attempts to influence China's policy towards Moscow, the Kremlin said on Tuesday, commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Beijing where he held talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

During a rare visit to Beijing by Blinken, China and the United States agreed on Monday to stabilise their intense rivalry so it did not veer into conflict, but failed to produce any major breakthrough. Blinken said however that he had asked the Chinese government to be very vigilant about the possibility that Chinese firms may be providing Russia with technology that it could use in its war in Ukraine, something Moscow calls a "special military operation."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Beijing had the sovereign right to forge ties with other countries and that the process of trying to build predictable relations between China and the United States was an important one. Russia did not think there was a risk of U.S.-China talks causing problems for Moscow, he said.

"Our strategic partnership relationship with China make us confident that (Beijing's) development of relations with other countries will never be aimed against our country," Peskov said.

Hit with sanctions by the United States and the European Union over Ukraine, Russia has sought in Beijing a market for its energy exports and a partnership in a global anti-Western axis that would challenge the existing world order. Xi visited Russia in March, pledging friendship, but maintaining an "impartial position" on the Ukraine conflict.

Turkish drone strike kills 2 Kurdish local officials and their driver in north Syria, officials say

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: A Turkish drone attack killed two Kurdish local officials and their driver in northeast Syria on Tuesday in the latest such strike in the war-torn country, officials said, as talks on Syria's conflict began in Kazakhstan. The Kurdish-led authority in northeast Syria said Tuesday's strike hit a car near the town of Qamishli, killing the co-chairperson of the town's council, Yusra Darwish, and her deputy, Liman Shweish, as well as their driver. An additional local official was wounded in the attack.

The attack is the latest in a series of such strikes by Turkey's military that has been targeting Kurdish officials and fighters in north-east Syria for months. Turkey says the main Syrian Kurdish militia is allied to the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, has led an insurgency against Turkey since 1984, which has killed tens of thousands of people. The authority said in a statement that the four were visiting institutions run by the Kurdish-led Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria when they came under drone attack while on the road outside Qamishli.



Tunisian President Kais Saied welcomes French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin and German Interior Minister Nancy Faeser to the presidential palace in Carthage, Tunisia.

If grain deal ends, UN pledge on Russian exports 'will go on'

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian deputy foreign minister said on Monday that even if a deal allowing shipments of Ukrainian grain via the Black Sea ends, Russia's agreement with the United Nations to ease its own exports will stay in force, state news agency RIA reported on Monday.

Moscow has repeatedly said it sees little chance of agreeing an extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative beyond July 18, because it says Western sanctions are thwarting its own UN-backed attempts to export both grain and fertiliser.

Asked by RIA if the collapse of the grain deal would invalidate its memorandum with the UN, Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Gru-shko said:

France to shut down climate NGO after protest violence

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: French authorities are expected shortly to issue a decree shutting down a climate activist group after demonstrators clashed with police over a controversial irrigation project that left one man in a coma.

Government spokesman Olivier Veran accused the Uprisings of the Earth (SLT) coalition of encouraging the violence at the March protests near Sainte-Soline in western France, where authorities said around 30 officers were also injured.

"You don't dissolve an association because of its ideas. You dissolve it because there is violence or a risk for public safety," Veran told CNews television. SLT had vowed to fight the shutdown order, saying on its website: "You cannot dissolve a movement. You cannot dissolve a revolt."

West Bank toll rises with deaths of two Palestinians

Monitoring Desk
WEST BANK: A Palestinian died on Tuesday from gunshot wounds sustained in an earlier Israeli raid, the Palestinian health ministry said after announcing another man was killed elsewhere in the occupied West Bank.

Amjad Aref Jaas "died from critical wounds to the abdomen sustained from live occupation (Israeli) fire" in the northern West Bank city of Jenin, a ministry statement said.

The 48-year-old's death raises to six the number of Palestinians killed in Monday's hours-long raid by Israeli troops, which wounded more than 90 Palestinians according to health officials.

UN chief urges Israel to halt, reverse settlement decisions

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday urged Israel to halt and reverse what he described as troubling and alarming decisions on settlement activity in the occupied West Bank, a U.N. spokesperson said.

"The Secretary-General reiterates that settlements are a flagrant violation of international law."

UN official praises Kenya's refugee integration program, says \$200 million pledged, more needed

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: The top U.N. official for refugees praised Kenya's plans Tuesday for an integration program that would aim to make refugees self-sufficient, as he met with the Kenyan president on World Refugee Day.

Kenya hosts more than 600,000 refugees, hailing from 23 countries, including neighboring Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia. The majority live in Dadaab and Kakuma camps, north of the country. The camps are overcrowded and basic services are overstretched.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi, who met with Kenya's President William Ruto on Tuesday, told The Associated Press that Kenya's planned integration program was a more sustainable approach as opposed to the current camp system that

Romanian prosecutors send Andrew Tate to trial for human trafficking

Monitoring Desk
BUCHAREST: Romanian prosecutors sent social media influencer Andrew Tate, his brother Tristan and two other suspects to trial on Tuesday on charges of human trafficking, rape and forming a criminal gang to sexually exploit women.

The Tate brothers and two Romanian female suspects are under house arrest pending a criminal investigation into abuses committed against seven women - accusations they have denied.

The brothers, former kickboxers who have U.S. and British nationality, are the highest profile suspects to be sent to trial for human trafficking in Romania. Tate has millions of online fans, mostly young men, who follow his promotion of an ultra-masculine, luxurious lifestyle. Critics accuse him of misogyny.



United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi speaks during a press conference accompanied by Governor of Garissa County Nathif Jama Adam and Principal Secretary for Immigration and Citizens Services Julius Bitok in Nairobi, Kenya on the occasion of World Refugee Day.

Modi says criticism of India's stance on Russia not widespread in US

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that India's stance on Russia in the Ukraine conflict has not faced widespread criticism in the United States. Asked in an interview with the Wall Street Journal about critical comments in the US for not taking a more forceful stance against Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Modi said: "I don't think this type of perception is widespread in the US."

"I think India's position is well known and well understood in the entire world. The world has full confidence that India's top-most priority is peace," he said. Modi left on Tuesday on a state visit to the US billed as a turning point for bilateral relations, with deeper cooperation in defence and high technology in focus. New Delhi has refused to condemn its old ally Russia for the war in Ukraine and has increased its trade with Moscow to record levels, driven largely by imports of Russian oil. US President Joe Biden has been eager to strengthen relations with India as part of his bid to win what he has framed as a contest between free and autocratic societies.

Trump's lawyers ordered not to release documents

Monitoring Desk
TALLAHASSEE: A US judge in Florida on Monday ordered defence lawyers for former President Donald Trump not to release evidence in the classified documents case to the media or the public, according to a court filing.

The order from US Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart also put strict conditions on Trump's access to the materials. "The Discovery materials, along with any information derived therefrom, shall not be disclosed to the public or the news media, or disseminated on any news or social media platform."

Europe is fastest warming continent, says study

Monitoring Desk
GENEVA: Europe is now the fastest warming continent on the planet, with the temperature having risen by about twice the global average since the 1980s, according to a joint report by the World Meteorological Organisation and the European Union.

Europe's summer last year was the hottest on record and caused thousands of deaths, scientists confirmed, while warning that such events could become more routine.

The report on the state of climate said heat waves led to some 16,000 excess deaths last year in Europe, said the report, which was published on Monday.

"Unfortunately, this cannot be considered a one-off occurrence or an oddity of the climate," said Dr Carlo Buontempo, Director, Copernicus Climate Change Service.

"Our current understanding of the climate system and its evolution informs us that these kinds of events are part of a pattern that will make heat stress extremes more frequent and more intense across the region," he said.

Scientists have warned of record high temperatures ahead across the world as excess warming from climate change mixes with a tip towards El Nino.

The reason Europe is warming faster than other continents has to do with the fact that a large part of the continent is in the sub-Arctic and Arctic.

Paris air show: India centre stage as another big jet deal lands

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India dominated the Paris Airshow for a second day on Tuesday, as Air India finalised a huge order for 470 planes from Airbus and Boeing. The agreement, when sketched out in February, was the largest-ever plane deal by the number of aircraft. But it was surpassed on day one of the Paris show by Indian rival IndiGo's order for 500 Airbus narrowbody jets. Finalising the deal puts it in the aerospace industry's order backlog as firm orders. Until now, it was only a preliminary deal. Efforts by Indian airlines to keep pace with the world's fastest-growing aviation market.

Australians say they would support Taiwan if China attacked

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: Australians would support responding to a Chinese attack on Taiwan with economic sanctions, arms supplies or using the navy to prevent a blockade, but don't support sending troops, an opinion poll to be released Wednesday finds.

Canberra says it is opposed to any unilateral attempt to change the status quo in Taiwan, while the United States has long stuck to a policy of "strategic ambiguity" over whether it would respond militarily to an attack on the island, which Beijing has refused to rule out.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese told Asia's top security meeting in June that Australia supports dialogue between the United States and China because a conflict in the Taiwan Strait would be "devastating for the world."

The annual Lowy Institute poll of public attitudes to the world found 82% of those surveyed supported the security alliance with the U.S., although three-quarters also think that means Australia would be drawn into the war in Asia.

The prospect of a military conflict between the United States and China over Taiwan was seen as a "critical threat" by 64% of Australians surveyed, worrying twice as many people as two years ago. The top threat cited, by 68% percent of respondents, was cyber attacks from other countries.

Ryan Neelam, director of public opinion at the foreign policy think tank, said the poll showed Australians are "cautious about conflict", but willing to support Taiwan without becoming a ground combatant.

"When it comes to a specific scenario where Taiwan is under military threat and the U.S. is engaged, Australians feel quite forward-leaning about taking action to support Taiwan when it comes to accepting refugees, imposing sanctions on Beijing."

Islamic State affiliate expanding reach in DR Congo, UN experts say

Monitoring Desk
KINSHASA: A Ugandan armed group that killed dozens of school children last week is expanding its operations in Democratic Republic of Congo and continued to conduct deadly attacks on civilians, UN experts said.

The ADF has increased its activity in South Kivu province in recent months and sought to recruit and conduct attacks in capital Kinshasa and in Haut-Uele province, it said.

"It should be noted that (their) objective is to carry out acts of terror that make big publicity," Congo's government spokesperson Patrick Muyaya told a press briefing on Monday.

He said the army was making progress against the ADF through its joint operations with Uganda, particularly in the group's strongholds where it has destroyed training centres and other sites.

UNICEF warns of overcrowded Haiti camp

Monitoring Desk
PORT-AU-PRINCE: Haitian children face a severe lack of food, medical support and education, the head of the United Nations children's agency UNICEF said in the capital Port-au-Prince on Monday, hours after heavy shooting rang out near a packed camp of displaced persons.

Heavily armed gangs have expanded their turf and now control communities accounting for some two million people, according to U.N. estimates, mostly women and children living amid frequent extra-judicial killings and sexual violence.

This has fueled a humanitarian crisis the agency believes has internally displaced over 165,000 people, while driving many to attempt a dangerous escape by boat.

"Children are malnourished, they need help and the world needs to pay attention," UNICEF Executive Director Catherine Russell said in an interview after visiting the New Church of God of Deliverance camp, which now harbors 120 families from hard-hit neighborhoods, including 239 children.

The children desperately need healthcare like immunizations, and schooling, she added: "Adults need to stop fighting and take care of children."

"We hope we won't be hosting any more kids because there is no more room," said Stephanie Pierre, who manages the crowded camp that serves as a mobile clinic distributing sanitation kits and information about cholera. At a meeting on Haiti last week, Russell said UNICEF has documented an unprecedented 30% increase in Haitian children suffering from severe wasting from last year, making them far more vulnerable to dying from cholera, which reemerged in October.

The agency estimates over 100,000 children are at immediate risk of starving to death, out of total estimated population of around 12 million. "The time for action is long overdue," said Russell ahead of a July summit of European, Caribbean and Latin American states she described as an opportunity for the world "to rally around Haiti with investments."



Evacuees from Sudan wait upon arrival at Baghdad International Airport.

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, Shoab 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: 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.

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 violence 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.

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

Mushahid says Strengthening Iran ties key to Border & Energy Security

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Defence, chaired by Senator Mushahid Hussain Syed, convened a meeting today to address important issues pertaining to national security and the well-being of the citizens.

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.

The meeting commenced with Fatah offered for the souls who lost their lives in the Greece boat tragedy.

edy. The Committee extended their heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and expressed solidarity with them during this difficult time.

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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.

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.

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,



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

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

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.

The program's short-term goal focused on training faculty members from different universities to create a pool of skilled trainers who can continue delivering similar programs. The long-term vision is to establish a complete graduate and post-graduate program in Procurement and Supply Chain Management across universities in Balochistan.



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.

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.

President approves Trained Paramedical Staff Facility Bill, 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday gave his assent to the Trained Paramedical Staff Facility Bill, 2023.

Under the Bill, the availability of trained paramedical staff to provide first aid to children in public and private schools of Islamabad had been made mandatory, a news release issued by the President House Press Wing said on Tuesday. All the private schools in Islamabad will

ensure the availability of paramedical staff in their premises to provide medical assistance to the children who need it. The Federal Government will ensure the availability of paramedical staff in all government schools to provide medical assistance to the children. In case of violation, a fine of up to Rs 100,000 after the first warning, and imprisonment of up to six months thereafter can be imposed.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with Ilyas Masih, President of All Neighbors International and Dr. Chris Gnanakan, American Professor at Parliament House.

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.

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 Pa-

kistani 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 so that such illegal work will not be done again.

He said that parents should teach their children and discourage them from going to other countries by illegal methods. Job opportunities should be provided so that people would get employment opportunities through legal means. He expressed his heartfelt sympathy to the families of the Pakistani youths who died in the boat accident in Greece and said that the nations were saddened.

In this hour, he is an equal sharer with his brothers, while expressing his condolences to the families of all those who lost their lives in the accident, he also prayed to Allah to raise the ranks of the deceased and grant patience to the bereaved.



QUETTA: Coordinators of Chief Minister Balochistan meeting with Provincial Secretary to Chief Minister Imran Gichki

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

KUCHLAK: A joining ceremony was held at Kuli Sahibzada Bagh Nishat Kuchlak organized by the People's Party Tehsil Kuchlak, tribal youth Jafar Khan Mehtarzai along with dozens of his colleagues announced joining the People's Party.

Provincial Deputy General Secretary Mir Sanajtak, President of Quetta Mir Naseebullah Shahwani, Provincial Finance Secretary and Focal Person of Pakistan Malik Abdul Hameed Kakar, Vice President of Quetta Mir Ahmed Longu, President of Tehsil Kuchlak Muhammad Sadiq Kakar, Vice President of Quetta Haider Khan Durrani, Executive member Mir Manoor Longu, Senior Vice President of Quetta Youth Organization Bashir Ahmad Kakar, Jafar Khan Kakar, Deputy General Secretary of Quetta Division

Muhammad Iqbal Kakar, Zahoor Ahmad Raisani and others said in a joining 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.