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PM directs for ensuring complete prevention of human trafficking

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

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

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

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

Expressing anger over

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

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

Federal Ministers Rana Sanaullah, Marriyum Aurangzeb, Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatimi, DG FIA, Chief Secretary Azad Jammu and Kashmir and other relevant high officials were present

in the meeting.

On June 14, a boat sank in the Mediterranean Sea near Greece, in which 104 people have been rescued alive, out of which 12 are from Pakistan. So far, a total of 79 bodies have been recovered from the sea.

The meeting was told that the coordination cell established in the Ministry of Interior was working 24 hours, where families of missing persons can contact anytime.

The meeting was informed that after the incident, a total of 10 FIRs had been registered while 15 people had been arrested, including the main accused of the incident.



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

In all 668 personals passed out at PTC Governor calls for strengthening all institutions to materialize dream of good governance

Malik Abdul Wali Kakar pays homage to police martyrs for sacrifices; says we are living peacefully due to their sacrifices; heirs wouldn't be left alone; vows to provide wholehearted resources to police in future

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed that we have to strengthen and make stronger our all institutions to materialize the dream of good governance there.

He said that we are proud of sepoy's of police and value their sacrifices a lot. He said that it is because of the sacrifices of martyrs of police that we are living peacefully in our homes. We would never leave the heirs of police martyrs.

This and similar other views were expressed by the Governor while addressing the 97th passing out parade of graduates of the lower course of police

at the Police Training Center (PTC) on Wednesday morning.

The Inspector General of Police, Abdul Khaliq Sheikh, Commandant PTC, Dr. Farhan Zahid, DIG Police Quetta, Ghulam Azfar Mahehar and other senior police officers were also present.

Also attended the passing out parade was by the family members of the police graduates.

Speaking on the occasion, the Governor congratulated the police graduates on successful passing out and said that they would be entrusted different tasks and responsibilities at different places, and surely this training would help them to face every kind of challenges in the line

of duty.

He said that the police officers and jawans have rendered numerous sacrifices for the province, and it is because of their sacrifices that terrorism could be eliminated and peace was established in the province.

He said that no doubt there is a key role of peace in establishing peace and protection of the life and property of general public.

He said that it is our utmost endeavour to provide wholehearted resources to the police force so that it may continue to play its pivotal role in establishing peace.

He stressed that the police force would have to play more part for sustainable peace in the province.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Lahore and Radio Pakistan. Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Umar Ata Bandial has constituted a nine-judge bench to take up petitions against the trial of May 9 rioters in military courts.

The chief justice is heading the bench while Justice Qazi Faez Isa, Justice Sardar Tariq, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Khan Afridi, Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, and Justice Ayesha Malik are its members.

The petitions have been set for hearing tomorrow (June 22).

Last month, PTI activists took to the streets to vent their spleen over the arrest of Imran Khan in a corruption case. They damaged public property, state assets and sensitive installations.

The rioters stormed GHQ in Rawalpindi, Corps Commander House in

Innocent people lost their lives and riots left a trail of destruction. The government launched a hunt for the culprits in PTI.

As soon as the decision to try rioters in military court, PTI moved the Supreme Court (SC) against it, calling the decision a 'clear violation' of the constitutional guarantees of due process and fair trial.

"Such trials are highly deprecated internationally and widely considered as falling short of providing fair trial," the petition stated.

It stated, "They constitute a violation of Pakistan's obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) which has been ratified by the country."

It added, "Trial of thousands of workers of a political party (or a political leader) through such courts is unheard of in the history of this country."



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

Govt committed to complete IMF programme: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said here on Wednesday that the government was committed to complete the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

During a meeting with Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan, Donald Blome who called on the minister, the minister informed him about the progress on the on-going talks with IMF, according to press statement issued by finance ministry.

He said Pakistan values the deep rooted historic and durable bilateral relations with the United

States on economic and trade fronts.

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

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

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

President Alvi appoints Justice Qazi Faez Isa as next CJP

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

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

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

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

PPP likely to part ways with ruling alliance after approval of budget

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP has completed all the preparations to give big surprise to government after Eid ul Azha.

Possibility is there that PPP which is annoyed with government has made all preparations to part ways with government.

According to private TV report PPP hopes to get anti Nawaz votes from Punjab.

PPP sources said it has started considering over parting ways with ruling alliance. Following the approval of federal budget PPP is likely to quit ruling coalition.

Ghulam Sarwar, his son, nephew arrested

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former federal minister Ghulam Sarwar Khan has been arrested from Islamabad.

Police have also arrested Mansoor Hayat son of Ghulam Sarwar Khan and his nephew Ammar Siddique.

Police sources said these three were wanted in May 9 vandalism case and attack on judicial complex.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah Khan on Wednesday said it was the religious obligation of every Muslim to protect and uphold the honour of Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

No compromises could be made on the Holy Prophet's (PBUH) honour as the love for him was deeply embedded in the hearts of Muslims, he said chairing a meeting of the joint committee of the government and Tehreek-e-Labaik Pakistan (TLP).

The minister further said a person who did not believe in the finality of the Prophethood could not be considered a Muslim.

PM arrives in Paris to attend New Global Financing Pact Summit

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

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

Federal ministers Sherry Rehman, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq and Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Special Assistant to the PM Tariq Fatemi are part of the prime minister's entourage.

During the visit, the prime minister will attend the New Global Financing Pact Summit being hosted by France and participated by heads of state and delegates from over 50 countries.

NHA completes key link road in Balochistan

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

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

Shahid Ihsanullah said that currently, both light and heavy traffic is plying on the road and the Prime Minister will formally inaugurate the highway soon, he said. The road is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative, he said.

Jawad Akhtar Khokhar, a senior official at the Ministry of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, told Gwadar Pro that N-30 will reduce over 100



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili addressing participants of National Workshop Balochistan-XI



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Donald Blome, Ambassador of the United States of America to Pakistan called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar

Balochistan rich in minerals; resources need to be used in better way: Behrooz Regi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan's ambassador to Sudan Mir Behrooz Regi has said that Balochistan is a province rich in gold, gas and mineral resources.

He said that by utilizing these resources in a better way, the destiny of Balochistan as well as Pakistan can be changed.

The Ambassador expressed these views yesterday while meeting President of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on the occasion of his visit to the chamber.

He said that the civil war of Sudan is causing the destruction of a very sad and important African country.

"We need to work together to improve the security situation of Pakistan and take the country on the

PM constitutes AC for revival of national economy

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

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

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

Federal minister food security, minister for information technology and minister for petroleum and natural resources will also be part of the committee.

The sources disclosed that the AC will evolve frame work on foreign investment in Pakistan. The committee will also facilitate the countries interested in making investment in Pakistan. Government sources have claimed 5 major countries have shown interest in making heavy investment in Pakistan. Among these countries Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar and Bahrain are ready to make heavy investment in Pakistan.

Minister Home congratulates provincial Govt on preparing "public-friendly" budget

QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has congratulated the provincial government for presenting "balanced" budget for the next financial year 2023-24.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, the Provincial Minister said that the provincial government led by Chief Minister Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo deserves much appreciating on preparing a public-friendly budget.

The Minister Finance Zamarak Khan Achakzai presented a best budget remaining in the available resources, said Mir Ziaullah Langove adding that low paid employees were given substantial relief in the budget.

In addition to this, special steps were also taken to provide relief to the under privileged segments of the society, the Minister Home added.

He particularly hailed the decision of provincial government for increasing salaries and pensions of the government employees and pensioners.

With this, the longstanding demand of the employees has been met, he noted with satisfaction.

Mitha Kakar terms province's next budget as historic

QUETTA: The Advisor to Chief Minister, Mitha Khan Kakar has termed the next financial year budget of the province as historic.

In an official statement issued here on Wednesday, the Advisor said that the provincial government under leadership of the Chief Minister Mir Abdul



QUETTA: Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili addressing participants of National Workshop Balochistan-XI

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NA Speaker launches first-ever Summer Internship Program

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Wednesday inaugurated the Summer Internship Program for Young Citizens which aims to offer them a valuable opportunity to gain firsthand experience of the legislative procedures.

During the commemoration of Yom-e-Benazir, the Speaker officially inaugurated the aforementioned Summer Internship Program, emphasizing that democracy necessitates collective efforts by elected parliamentary representatives to foster prosperity.

He further asserted that democracy remains the most effective form of governance, and Pakistan, with its promising youth, is poised to embark on a progressive trajectory.

In emphasizing the importance of connecting the younger generation with the Parliament, he

stated, "The Parliament serves as a vital platform where political leaders tirelessly strive to shape the destiny of our nation."

He went on to highlight the relentless struggle and ultimate sacrifice made by the late Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for the cause of democracy.

Furthermore, he acknowledged her courageous fight against oppressive forces and her unwavering dedication to challenging dictatorship until her last moments. Additionally, he underscored that it was Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who bestowed upon our youth the fundamental right to vote.

The NA Speaker also condemned the recent vandalism and desecration of monuments dedicated to the nation's Martyrs. He also emphasized the fact that it is impossible for a nation to progress if it

doesn't respect its martyrs. He stated that the onus is upon our young generation to preserve the sanctity of Parliament.

While addressing the launching ceremony of the Internship Program, National Assembly Secretary Mr. Tahir Hussain warmly welcomed the Interns. He remarked "Parliament is the house of people and it is fortunate that the youth of this country are getting an opportunity to work at this prestigious institution, which will help them to understand democratic systems and the Constitution".

He encouraged the Interns to ask as many questions as they want during the course of their internship as it would help them in better understanding of the Parliament, State and endeavors undertaken by parliamentarians for betterment of the people of Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf addressing to the participants of Launch ceremony of internship for O/A Levels Students at Parliament House.

UNHCR, Govt of Pakistan pay tribute to resilience of displaced people

ISLAMABAD (APP): UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency and the Government of Pakistan on Wednesday marked World Refugee Day by paying tribute to the resilience and courage of people who are displaced due to conflict or persecution across the world.

According to UNHCR's flagship annual report, the number of people displaced by war, persecution, violence, and human rights abuses stood at a record 108.4 million, up 19.1 million from a year earlier, which was the biggest

ever increase.

The trend witnessed an increase in displacement in 2023, pushing the global total to an estimated 110 million by May 2023. More than 1 in 74 people worldwide remained forcibly displaced.

The number of refugees hosted in Asia and the Pacific region rose from 4.2 million in 2021 to 6.8 million by the end of 2022, nearly 20 percent of the global total.

Over 90 percent of all refugees in the region are hosted in just three countries, the Islamic Republic

of Iran, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

This year's theme is "Hope away from home". In Islamabad, government officials, heads of diplomatic missions NGOs and UN agencies, partners' staff, and many refugees joined UNHCR in marking World Refugee Day.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar was the chief guest on the occasion. Chief Commissioner for Afghan Refugee Mr. Abbas Khan was also present on the occasion.



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

BISP disburses over 13 billion rupees among 1.44 million beneficiaries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) disbursed Rs 13.039 billion among 1.448 million families under Benazir Kafaalat Programme during last two days.

Additionally, 391,765 beneficiary mothers have withdrawn the stipend of Benazir Taleemi Wazaif.

Benazir Income Support Programme had released the 4th quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance on Monday.

The amount of the 4th quarterly tranche is Rs 9000 after a 25 percent increase, which was announced by the federal government early this year.

In addition to Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance, Benazir Taleemi Wazaif stipend's installment of January to March is also being disbursed to 6.7 million school going students having at least 70 percent attendance in school who are registered under Benazir Taleemi Wazaif.

This time, disbursement is being made through

1559, especially arranged Camp sites established throughout the country.

The arrangement of disbursement of Stipends through Campsites is to facilitate the beneficiaries and ensure transparency.

Provision of payment through ATMs of HBL and Bank Alfalah will not be available, nor will any payment be made at the POS outside the campsite established by the BISP.

About Rs 81 billion is being disbursed among nine million beneficiaries' families of Benazir Kafaalat cash assistance, while another Rs 16 billion is being doled out to the 6.7 million beneficiaries of Taleemi Wazaif.

It is important to note that at primary level Rs 2000 is paid to a girl student while Rs 1500 is given to a boy student.

At secondary level, a girl student and a boy student is paid Rs 3000 and Rs 2500 respectively, while at higher secondary level the stipend is Rs 4000 and Rs 3500 for the female and male students, respectively.

IHC seeks registration of case against Islamabad DC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday instructed the police to register a case against deputy commissioner (DC) Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Irfan Memon and others for illegally detaining a citizen.

The court also directed police to register a case against the additional deputy commissioner, Sub-Inspector Police Station Golra Imtiaz and a constable Nadir as per the complaint of the citizen.

Justice Babar Sattar heard the case filed by a citizen Sherzada into the matter. The court remarked that how the deputy commissioner could detain a citizen forcibly in his office.

The petitioner had adopted the stance that he was detained for four hours at the office of DC ICT, adding that his mobile phone was snatched and his chequebook was brought from his house.

Strict action against smoke emitting vehicles ordered

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

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

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

IHC instructs Qureshi, Umar to appear in bail cases

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday instructed PTL's leaders Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar to appear in personal capacity on Thursday in their bail petitions. The court said that it couldn't hear the bail petitions of the accused without their appearances as their bail cases already had been dismissed by the lower court. Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir heard the interim bail petitions of Asad Umar and Shah Mehmood Qureshi in a case registered by Tarnol Police

Station with regard to the incidents of May 9.

The petitioners had stated that the police had registered cases to pressurize and humiliate them, adding that they were ready to join the investigation into the matter. Petitioners' lawyer Ali Bokhari Advocate said that Qureshi and Umar had reached outside the court premises, adding that there was a risk of their arrest if they came out from the vehicle. The court questioned that whether there was any precedent when an accused was given interim bail without appearance.

Very hot, humid weather expected in most parts of country

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

However, dust storm is expected in Northeast Balochistan.

Temperature of some major cities recorded this morning:

Islamabad and Peshawar twenty-nine degree centigrade, Lahore thirty-one, Karachi thirty, Quetta twenty-five, Gilgit and Murree sixteen and Muzaffarabad twenty-four degree centigrade.



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

Embassy of Azerbaijan celebrates Anniversary of Armed Forces

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

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

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

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

IIU, Baitul Mal ink MoU

ISLAMABAD (Online): International Islamic University (IIU) and Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral cooperation under which they will provide financial assistance to needy students of university.

The MoU signing ceremony was held here at the new campus of the university in which Dr. HathalHomoudAlotaibi, President IIU and Mr. Amir FidaParacha, Managing Director Bait-ul-Mal signed the document.

The Bait-ul-Mal shall provide stipend to the 175 deserving and brilliant undergraduate students and 75 postgraduate students. These students shall be recommended by the university.

Both sides will jointly hold national and international days such as Universal children day, International women day, Thalassemia day, World blood day and World Aids Day. Bait-ul-Mal shall also provide internship facilities to the students of IIU.

Amir FidaParacha said on the occasion that Bait ul Mal is keen to provide financial assistance to all the poor without discrimination of cost, creed and race. He said bright students are an asset of the country and they will always remain top priority of Bait ul Mal. He said youth is a key to success and prosperity and we must invest in its education as it will produce best results.

Senate body on Cabinet Secretariat meets

ISLAMABAD (Online): Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat was held at Parliament House on Wednesday with Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad in Chair.

The Chairman Committee delayed the deliberation on "The Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Bill, stating that the Government is intending to present the Bill for the regulation of Toshakhana. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs MurtazaJaved Abbasi apprised that Government Bill would be tabled in the next Senate Session. In relating to query asked by Senator Danesh Kumar about the number of posts advertised by FPSC

during the last two years along with the names of departments. Senator Danesh Kumar expressed dissatisfaction on the details submitted by establishment division and demanded that grade wise details of all gades should be provided. WaseemMukhtar, Special Secretary Establishment Division, apprised that thirteen Ministries have submitted the details but an appropriate time is needed for submission of all relevant details. In addition to that, Senator Danesh Kumar and Gurdeep Singh also moved a resolution in the House that Government should equally distribute the reserved five percent job quota for minorities among all provinces.

Shazia Marri vows to uphold Shaheed BB's mission

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

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

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

Benazir Bhutto was not only the first woman Prime Minister of the country but of the entire Muslim Ummah giving a new

perspective to the country's politics.

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

The Ghazi Barotha and Neelum Power Projects were also launched in her tenure of electricity generation.

The federal minister said that oil and gas production increased during the tenure of Shaheed Benazir Bhutto while Pakistan's relations with foreign countries were also significantly improved.

Referring to the Thar Coal project which Shaheed Benazir Bhutto once termed as 'black gold', Shazia Marri said that the Thar coal project is now the biggest cheap source of generating electricity for the country.

Being a woman, Shaheed Benazir Bhutto never considered herself weak but changed the dynamics of politics by empowering women in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Inter-Provincial Coordination (IPC) Ehsan Ur Rehman Mazari along with PCB Board of Governor member Zaka Ashraf cutting cake on the birthday anniversary of Former Prime Minister Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Shaheed at IPC Ministry.

Media plays important role in creating awareness among masses: Muqam

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

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

Besides others, Federal Secretary National Heritage and Culture Fareena Mazhar, well-known literary figure Ifikhar Arif, Senior Journalist Mujibur Rehman Shami, Hafeezullah Niazi, Ishaq Hussain and Farhat Ullah Babar were also present on the occasion.

Amir Muqam said that

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

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

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

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

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

The adviser termed the budget presented by the federal government as very balanced and people-friendly.

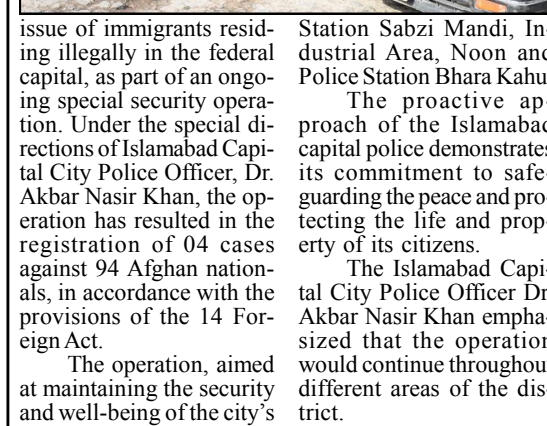
He said that despite the challenging economic conditions, the coalition government had prepared and presented the budget keeping in view the welfare of the poor and salaried class was commendable.

ICP crackdown on illegal immigrants, ensuring enhanced security measures

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad capital police is intensifying its efforts to tackle the

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

The operation, aimed at maintaining the security and well-being of the city's



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



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

CM Punjab expresses annoyance over poor arrangements at BBH

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi paid a surprise visit to Benazir Bhutto Hospital last night and expressed annoyance over poor arrangements at the hospital.

During his visit, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found that air conditioners were shut down in several wards while the X-ray facility was also missing at the hospital.

Some doctors and staff were also found absent



LAHORE: Vice Chancellor Government College Women University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Rubina Farooq meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman at Governor House.

Dr Jamal directs to expedite anti-dengue surveillance

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Wednesday directed the relevant officials to expedite anti-dengue surveillance to combat dengue.

Presiding over a meeting along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha to review anti-dengue arrangements, the minister directed the relevant officials to implement anti-dengue Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in letter and spirit.

He directed all the relevant departments to utilize all resources to eliminate dengue mosquitoes, as the prevailing weather was suitable for breeding larvae.

Dr Jamal directed the concerned to remove stagnant water in graveyards and other public places to stop mosquitoes from breeding after rain and submerged water and warned that no negligence would be tolerated in any arrangements.

He asked the district administration to arrange seminars and walks for creating awareness against

dengue and check the hotspots regularly.

On the occasion, the health officials briefed the meeting that ten dengue-positive cases had been reported in the Rawalpindi district this year, while there were around 150 positive hotspots in the Rawalpindi district.

The officials further briefed that 150 FIRs while 24 people had been arrested over the violations of the SOPs in the district.

Similarly, the meeting was briefed that there were 1,667 hotspots in district Jehlum and 173 FIRs had been registered against the violators. In district Chakwal the number of positive hotspots was 1,166 and 877 in Attock.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Hasan Waqar Cheema, Director General (DG) RDA Saif Anwar Jappa, Vice-Chancellor (VC) Rawalpindi Medical University Dr Umer, and others participated while Deputy Commissioners (DCs) of Attock, Jehlum, Chakwal attended the meeting through video link.



GUJRANWALA: People are performing Yoga exercises to keep them fit on the occasion of International Day of Yoga, at Cricket Ground in Gujranwala.

83 drug dealers arrested with 195kg narcotics in Vehari: DPO Esa Khan

BUREWALA (APP): District Police Officer (DPO) Muhammad Esa Khan Sukhera said on Wednesday that police has traced out a big narcotics network in district Vehari during anti-crime operations carried out in just six days, 83 drug dealers arrested with 195 kilogram of narcotics.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference in Vehari, DPO Sukhera said that 130 KG of Hashish, 31kg of Haroin, 22kg hemp leaf and 12kg opium were recovered from the drugs dealers besides 1137 litres of alcohol from 22 bootleggers during operations carried out, police spokesman said. Sukhera said, he had promised to eliminate narcotics within 30 days, however, police achieved the breakthrough within a week with the arrest of big fish in narcotics trade and many others had to leave

the area. Giving details, he said that Sadar police Burewala arrested six drug dealers and recovered 5-KG of Hashish, 19.5 KG Haroin and 115 litres of alcohol. Sahoooka police arrested five drug dealers with 5358 gram of Hashish and 11340 gram of Haroin. Vehari city police arrested four drug dealers and recovered 9220 gram Hashish and seven kilogram opium, while Tibba Sultanpur police arrested seven drug dealers with 25 kilogram of Hashish and 700 kilograms of hemp leaf.

He said that since there was no rehabilitation centre in Vehari, the drug addicts that police had found on green belts were shifted to mausoleum of Hazrat Baba Fareeduddin Shakar Ganj in Pakpattan where proper food and lodging facilities were being provided to them.

PDMA issues GLOF alert for Chitral, Kohistan, Dir

PESHAWAR (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) on Wednesday issued an alert of flash floods in Upper and Lower Chitral, Kohistan, Upper and Lower Dir, and Swat due to Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF).

PDMA has directed all the relevant district administrations and other line departments to take precautionary measures and sensitive the local communities at risk, besides ensuring the availability of emergency and rescue services.

The spokesperson of PDMA said that the authority also warned tourists to avoid any unnecessary travel to these areas and contact the district administration, PDMA, or tourism authority before planning any activity.

Two killed in truck, motorcycle collision

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

He said, "Solid steps are also taking for providing basic human rights along with other facilities to detainees in jails."

"It is the need of the hour to bring reforms in prison department aimed at tackling the current era challenges," he added.

In a statement issued from his office, the care-



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

Edhi Foundation to add more 3 aircrafts in its fleet

LAHORE (Online): Edhi Foundation (EF) will add more 3 aircrafts in its air-ambulance fleet.

The aircrafts will include 2 Americans and one Russian.

According to Faisal Edhi, head of Edhi Foundation 3 more aircrafts are being added into air-ambulance fleet and with addition of these 3 aircrafts total number of aircrafts will come to 5. One helicopter is also part of the fleet.

He said a new centre of foundation will be opened in Punjab. My son Saad too has become pilot after getting training.

provincial minister about the operational responsibilities and the activities being carried out in various sectors for social development.

Besides, Managing Director (MD) Technical & Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA), Abdul Ghaffar, Director General (DG) Industries, Barkatullah, Director (Finance) TEVTA, Munir Gul, representatives of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Economic Zones Development & Management Company (KP-EZDMC) and UNDP project were also present on the occasion.

2 bodies found in canal, River Ravi

FAISALABAD (APP): Two bodies were found floating from a canal and a river in suburban areas here on Wednesday. Rescue-1122 spokesman said that some passersby spotted the body of a 24-year-old youth floating in Rakh Branch Canal near D-Type Chowk on Samundri Road and informed the rescue department. The divers of Rescue-1122 fished out the body from the canal and handed it over to Samanabad police. The body was identified as Abdul Jabbar, resident of Masood Abad. Apparently, the victim was an addict. The real cause of his death would come into light after postmortem report.

Shaheed Benazir Bhutto remembered on her birth anniversary

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister (CM) Syed Murad Ali Shah felicitated Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's family and workers on her birth anniversary, being celebrated on Wednesday across the country.

Syed Murad Ali Shah in his message told the workers that today (June 21) should be celebrated as the day of Bhutto's sacrifice, struggle, undying love for people, and democracy.

Benazir Bhutto was the great daughter of Quaid-i-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Begum Nusrat, the CM said.

He said that Shaheed Benazir Bhutto's bravery, struggle, and martyrdom were inherited from her great father and mother.

Murad Ali Shah said that Benazir Bhutto sacrificed her life for the love of her motherland, the restoration of democracy, and the uplift of the people.

"In order to understand the greatness of Bhutto and her love for the country, one has to read the 'Sur Marvi' of the great poet of Sindh, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai," Murad Shah added.

Govt taking tangible steps for bringing reforms in jails: Hidayat

PESHAWAR (APP): Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister (CM) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) for Prison Hidayat Ullah Khan Afridi on Wednesday said that the caretaker provincial government was taking tangible steps for bringing reforms in jails.

He said, "Solid steps are also taking for providing basic human rights along with other facilities to detainees in jails."

"It is the need of the hour to bring reforms in prison department aimed at tackling the current era challenges," he added.

In a statement issued from his office, the care-



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Minister praises free micro-financing model of Akhuwat Foundation

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister of Industry, Commerce and Technical Education, Mohammad Adnan Jalil on Wednesday praised the free micro-financing model of Akhuwat Foundation for the promotion of health and education, rehabilitation works, development of the agricultural sector and poverty alleviation in the country.

He was talking to a delegation of the welfare organization here at Civil Secretariat Peshawar.

The delegation of the organization briefed the

Citizens urged not to throw solid waste in drains

RAWALPINDI (APP): Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) here on Wednesday urged the citizens not to throw garbage and solid waste in drains particularly Nullah Lai.

According to a WASA spokesman, in an operation, three owners of tractor trolleys found throwing solid waste in Nullah Lai on late Tuesday night were handed over to police for legal action in accordance with the law. According to Managing Director, WASA, the Agency has launched an operation on the directives of Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaquat Ali Chatha against the violators of Section-144 imposed in areas near Nullah Lai and other nullahs of the town.

He informed that Punjab government spends huge amount every year to clean nullahs. Those who throw garbage and solid waste in the nullahs do not deserve any kind of concession, he added.

In view of the monsoon rains, the citizens had been requested to cooperate with WASA staff to keep the nullahs clean, the MD said adding, the citizens should come forward and play their role to make the efforts of the sanitation department regarding cleanliness of nullahs a success.

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

Independent Report

LAHORE: Vice Chancellor of Government College Women University Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Rubina Farooq and former Vice Chancellor of Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi, Prof. Dr. Rai Niaz Ahmad called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman at Governor House Lahore, here today. In the meeting, the improvement of governance in universities and the use of hydroponics technology in the agriculture sector were discussed.

Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that the government is taking concrete steps for the promotion of higher education in the country, adding that the government has allocated sufficient funds for the promotion of higher education in the recent budget.

He said that the Muslim League (N) government has always paid special attention to the health and education sectors. Governor Punjab said that as Chancellor he is giving special attention to improving the quality of education in the universities and character building of the students.

He said that he has directed the Vice-Chancellors to focus on the character building of the students. He also emphasized that there will be no compromise on governance issues in universities. Governor Punjab said that it is a good thing that women's universities are making progress. He said that it is a matter of pride that Government College Women University Faisalabad has come to a prominent place in the rankings of Times Higher Education and Asia.

He said that the process of improvement should

continue. Governor Punjab said that all universities should work together and move forward. Governor Punjab further said that modern methods are being encouraged in the agriculture sector.

Vice-Chancellor Faisalabad Women's University Rubina Farooq said that by activating E-employment centers on the instructions of the Governor of Punjab, female students of the university are being equipped with entrepreneurship skills. She said that due to the special interest of the Governor of Punjab, 70 percent of the university has been transferred to solar energy. Former Vice Chancellor Arid Agriculture University Rawalpindi Rai Niaz Ahmad said that in view of the growing needs of the country, use of hydroponics technology is very important.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with senior leaders of Peoples Party (PPP) and members of Sindh Assembly are cutting cake during celebration ceremony in connection of the 70th birthday anniversary of slain leader Benazir Bhutto, held in Karachi.

ANF recovers 54 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan in six operations conducted across the country recovered 54 kg drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Wednesday.

He informed that in an operation near Motorway Islamabad, 21.6 kg opium and 25.2 kg charras concealed in secret cavities of a vehicle were recovered. An accused resident of Faisalabad was rounded up.

In another operation near Pak-Afghan Border area in Chaman, three accused were arrested on recovery of 4.8 kg suspicious material.

In third operation conducted in a deserted area of Khyber, 1.5 kg Ice drug was recovered.

In fourth operation, a vehicle was intercepted near main Kamalpur Interchange Faisalabad, 9.6 kg opium and six kg charras were recovered while two accused resident of Mardan and Peshawar were netted.

Development works being executed under Karachi Mega Project: Murtaza

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the development works of roads and stormwater drains are going on in various areas under the Karachi Mega Project, which will be completed as soon as possible.

On visiting Allama Rashid Turabi Road, Shahrah Humayun, Shahrah Noor Jahan and Shadman Nala, he said works which were urgently needed in the city have been prioritized keeping the convenience of the citizens.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad was also with him, Project Director on this occasion briefed Mayor Karachi about details of the projects included in the mega project.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that Allama Rashid Turabi Road is three and a half kilometre long. Here first the drain work is

being done, after that, the road will be carpeted, this road is from Ziauddin Hospital to Landi Kotal Chowrang and from Landi Kotal to People's Chowrang, he said.

He said that it will be carpeted from Ziauddin Hospital to People's Chowrang.

Later, Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab visited Shahrah Humayun, where after the completion of the construction of the Storm water drain, the 20 km long road is now being carpeted.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab, on the occasion of his visit to Shahrah-e-Noor Jahan, inspected the construction of the road from Asghar Ali Shah Chowk to Qalandria Chowk, where the work of drain is in progress in the remaining part of the road, after which carpeting of other parts will be done.

KP Food Safety operation against adulteration mafia

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Food Safety and Halal Food Authority is active against adulteration mafia across the province with more than 2500 liters of non-standard and mislabeled juices and packing materials were seized from the factory.

According to a spokesman, the KP (FSHFA) launched an operation to people involved in using substandard materials in the food items.

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

ABBOTTABAD (APP): District Population Welfare Officer Faisal Khanzada, Dr. Shahzad, Deputy Demographer of Population Welfare, Sadra Malik, and other officials from the Department. The seminar began with a presentation on population demographics by Deputy Demographer Sadra Malik, highlighting the growing population and its consequences.

District Officer Shamsur Rahman emphasized that the Act guarantees reproductive health for all citizens of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

He expressed these views while addressing a day-long awareness seminar about the Reproductive Health Act of 2020.

The seminar was at-



ABBOTTABAD: Residents of Banda Phugwarian are holding protest demonstration against shortage of drinking water in their area, held at Abbottabad press club.

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

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

Azerbaijan will supply an LNG cargo every month to Pakistan at a "cheaper price," he said while talking to a private news channel.

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

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

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

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

To another question, he explained that the government has also devised a plan to attract investment from Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries as part of the 'Economic Revival Plan', adding, these billion

of investments in the country would create jobs and livelihoods for the youth and women.

In responding to another query about IMF, he said Pakistan has met all the conditions set by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a staff-level agreement and we are still very hopeful that the IMF programme will materialize soon.

Talking about the senate chairman's additional benefits, he strongly condemned and said that these certain privileges as well as allowances at a time when the country has been going through a severe financial crunch is unacceptable.

He said that as a Senator, "I will play my due role and raise objections for these special privileges".



ISLAMABAD: Federal Secretary Ministry of IT and Telecommunication Navid Ahmed Shaikh chairing 85th meeting of Board of Directors of Universal Service Fund (USF).

540 bln invoices issued through POS in one year: FBR

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

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

Addressing the participants he said that almost 50 million invoices were issued on a monthly basis.

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

FBR senior official said that the use of technology in Pakistan is less as compared to other developed countries adding

that the FBR is trying to make tax and tax matters easier.

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

"We should benefit from other countries' experiences in the digitization of the system and adopt their reforms to make the tax system easy and convenient for the people" he added.

He appreciated the UNESCAP for sharing important information regarding digitalization.

He said that global experts and their experiences will help us to set a new path and this is our first step towards digitalization.

He further said that we are in touch with international experts and in case of any difficulty we are supported in every way.

USF meeting discuss connectivity expansion in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Universal Service Fund (USF) Board of Directors meeting held here on Wednesday to discuss connectivity expansion in Pakistan.

The 85th meeting was chaired by Secretary Information Technology and Chairman USF Board, Navid A. Shaikh, said a press release.

The board members were joined by the newly appointed members, who bring a wealth of expertise and diverse perspectives to the organization.

Among the newly appointed board members are Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman, Chairman of the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA), Hatem Bamatraf, CEO of PTCL (Nominee of Fixed line licensees), Wang Hua, CEO of Zong (Nominee of mobile cellular licensees), and Independent Members/Directors Sofia Saeed, Ayla Majid, and Muhammad Yousuf. Muhammad Omar Malik, Member-Telecom, MoITT, as well as other board members and USF management, were also in attendance.

The USF, under the leadership and vision of the Minister of IT and Telecommunication, is proud to announce a significant achievement with the appointment of two distinguished female members, Sofia and Ayla, who assume the roles of Independent Members/Directors on the USF Board.

PIA offer lowest fares in market for flights to China

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced to offer the lowest fares in the market with gracious free baggage allowance for its flight between Pakistan and China.

We are pleased to announce that the national flag carrier is resuming flight operation to China starting from August 06, an official of PIA told APP here on Wednesday.

He said initially, PIA will have one weekly flight on the Islamabad-Beijing-Islamabad route every Sunday with departure from Beijing at 21:15.

We are offering the lowest fares in the market with gracious Free Baggage Allowance of 50 kg in Economy Class and 60 Kg in Economy Plus, he added.

He informed the one-way fare from Beijing to Islamabad is 3814 RMB and the fare for the Return ticket is 5685 RMB. We are also offering a 20 per cent student discount with 80 kg free baggage Allowance, he added.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Seven ships namely MSC Sky-II, Maersk Hartford, MSC Madeleine, Scirocco, Maud, FSM, and Al-Areesh carrying Containers, Mogas, Coal, LPG and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Oil Terminal, Bulk Terminal, Engro Yopak Terminal, and Engro Elengy Terminal respectively.

Meanwhile, two more ships, Ikan Parang and Star Bovarius with Steel Coil and Coal also arrived at the outer anchorage of Port Qasim on Wednesday.

A total of nine ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them three ships, MSC Sky-II, Mega-I, and Santa Francesca sailed out to sea on Wednesday morning.



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

ECC approves Rs1.9 bln technical supplementary grants

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

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

Order 2022 to allow government agencies to import pharmaceutical raw materials.

The Ministry of Energy (Power Division) submitted a summary regarding the Quarterly Tariff Adjustments of K-Electric and informed that as per National Electricity Policy 2021, the government may maintain a uniform consumer-end tariff for K-Electric and state-owned distribution companies.

Accordingly, KE's applicable uniform variable charge is required to be modified to maintain the uniform tariff across the country.

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

The ECC also approved another summary of the Ministry of Commerce regarding amendment in the relevant clause in the Import Policy

MNAs deliberate on Senate budget recommendations

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

Resuming debate on the federal budget and the Senate recommendations, Dr Sobia Aslam Soomro of Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP) said the past regime of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf

(PTI) installed landmines for the incumbent government by weakening the national economy and pushing the country towards the default-like situation.

She said the present government effectively tackled all the economic challenges and put the country on a path of macroeconomic stability with collective wisdom, setting remarkable growth targets in the fiscal year 2023-24.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, she said, soon after assuming charge of the office restarted the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project

that remained on backburner during the three-hand-an-half year rule of the PTI.

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

Maulana Abdul Akbar Chitrali of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP) recommended ensuring interest-free economic system in the country in line with the Islamic laws.

Gold prices decline by Rs.1,800

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

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



PESHAWAR: Farmers busy in spraying on crops near Dalazak road.

Olive Culture's steering committee reviews strategic proposal plan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The third meeting of the steering committee on 'Olive Culture' Wednesday reviewed a strategic proposal plan and policy's recommendations for a holistic development of the Pakistani Olive Value Chain.

The committee also included a virtual participation from Deputy Director CIHEAM Bari, Biagio DiTerlizzi, shed light on the initiative's progress and prospects.

The work plan of project will pursue the training for technicians and farmers in all the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), in managing and operating the olive processing plants, in generating Carbon sinking avenues for olive growers, creating participatory tourism olive plans with the communities' implementing Women and Youth generating income activities on value addition from olive table, in standardization.

representatives from several Ministries, provinces and the Italian Cooperation, AICS.

The project is an ambitious initiative aimed at supporting Pakistan in strengthening the olive value chain.

The event, which also included a virtual participation from Deputy Director CIHEAM Bari, Biagio DiTerlizzi, shed light on the initiative's progress and prospects.

The work plan of project will pursue the training for technicians and farmers in all the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), in managing and operating the olive processing plants, in generating Carbon sinking avenues for olive growers, creating participatory tourism olive plans with the communities' implementing Women and Youth generating income activities on value addition from olive table, in standardization.



LAHORE: Members of WAPDA Employees Pegham Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands outside LESCO Headquarters building in Lahore.

Sale tax evasion worth Rs 1358 million recovered on June 20

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

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

In this way, the company suppressed output tax to reduce its sales tax liability for the tax

Prices hike of vegetables, fruits worries citizens

PESHAWAR (APP): The sudden increase in the prices of vegetables and fruits in Peshawar worried the citizens and they demanded of the district government to ensure the availability of food items at the rates given by the district administration.

During a visit to the vegetable and fruit markets, the price of ginger increased to Rs 860 per kg, garlic Rs 320, and lemon to 160 per kg. Onion 50, tomato 30, green pepper 100, okra 90, and peas 230 rupees sold per kg while potato 100, kachalu 150, cauliflower 120, and Tenda 90 rupees per kg are being sold.

Gold imports up by 44.22% in 11 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The gold imports increased by 44.22 percent during the past eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The gold imports during the July-May (2022-23) were recorded at \$27,377 million as compared to the imports of \$18,983 million during July-May (2021-22), according to the data.

In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 437 kilograms of gold during the

periods in which illegal credit notes were issued and thus deprived the national exchequer from due tax revenue.

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

The company management agreed to deposit the amount of sales tax involved in the credit note issued/claimed in the return of March 2023 along with default surcharge.

months under review as compared to the imports of 302 kilograms last year, showing growth of 44.70 percent.

Meanwhile on year-on-year basis, the gold imports into the country witnessed an increase of 250.55 percent as these were recorded at \$3,421 million in May 2023 against the imports of \$0.976 million in May 2022.

In terms of quantity, the imports of the commodity declined by 271.43 percent, from 14 kilograms in May 2022 to 52 kilograms in May 2023.

PSX sheds 432 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) shed 432.23 points on Wednesday, a negative change of 1.06 per cent, closing at 40,220.80 points against 40,653.03 points the previous day.

A total of 97,020,043 shares were traded during the day as compared to 124,856,236 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.3,572 billion against Rs.4,031 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 323 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 69 of them recorded gains and 231 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 23 companies.



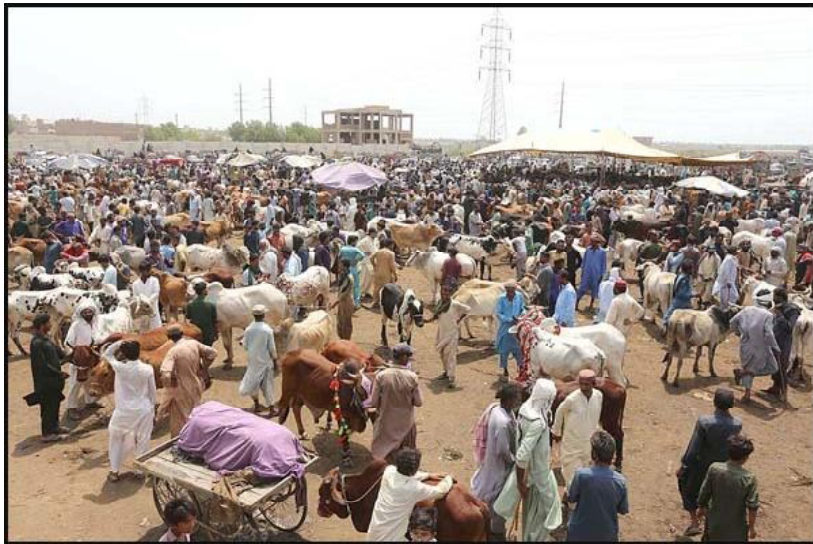
KARACHI: Visitors are taking keen interest at stalls during Craft Mela organized by The Crafts Guild held in Karachi.

President KATI calls for providing incentives to boost exports

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan's major export sectors and easing restrictions and conditions on exports as the government was in urgent need of foreign exchange and supporting the export industry was crucial in that regard.

He specifically highlighted the textile sector and urged the restoration of subsidised electricity and gas tariffs, as well as the provision of affordable and uninterrupted natural gas supply to industries.

He also emphasised the importance of restoring SRO 1125(1) of 2011.



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



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

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden welcomes India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, on Wednesday for two days of talks that the White House sees as bolstering "one of the defining partnerships of our age," despite ongoing concerns about human rights.

Washington wants India to be a strategic counterweight to China while Modi is seeking to raise the influence that his country, now the world's most populous, has on the world stage.

Biden and Modi are expected to announce a variety of agreements related to defense cooperation and sales, artificial intelligence, quantum computing and investments in India by

Micron Technology and other US companies.

Biden is expected to bring up US concerns about democratic backsliding in India, but he will not lecture Modi on the subject, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters.

When the US sees challenges to press, religious or other freedoms, "we make our views known," Sullivan said. He added: "We do so in a way where we don't seek to lecture or assert that we don't have challenges ourselves."

"Ultimately, the question of where politics and the question of democratic institutions go in India is going to be determined within India by Indians. It's not going to be determined by the United States,"

Sullivan said.

Modi has been to the United States five times since becoming prime minister in 2014, but the trip will be his first with the full diplomatic status of a state visit, despite concerns over what is seen as a deteriorating human rights situation under his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Biden is under pressure by his fellow Democrats to bring up human rights with Modi. Modi is being warmly greeted by US CEOs, including at a Friday reception. On Tuesday he met with Tesla's Elon Musk in New York.

Both Biden and Modi are grappling with Beijing's flexing its muscle in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.



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

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

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israeli police on Wednesday fired tear gas, sponge-tipped bullets and a water canon during mass demonstrations by Druze Arabs in the Golan Heights — a rare burst of violence in the normally quiet area. At least 20 people were reported injured.

Thousands of Druze residents of the Golan took part in the demonstrations against the construction of massive wind turbines. The windswept area is an ideal spot for the turbines, but residents fear damage to their properties and landowners have said they did not understand the agreements they signed with a

local power company, according to Israeli media.

Israeli police said a large crowd attempted to storm a police position in the town of Masade, throwing stones, fireworks, setting tires on fire, vandalizing police cars, blocking roads and even shooting live fire into the air.

A video released by police showed the crowd pelting riot police with objects.

The video showed Israeli riot police, accompanied by a large armored vehicle equipped with a water canon, marching through the streets, firing tear gas. The sound of rapid gunfire is heard in the background.

Israel's Ziv Hospital reported 20 injuries — including 12 members of the police with light wounds and eight civilians, four of whom were in serious condition.

Israel captured the Golan, a strategic plateau overlooking northern Israel, from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war. It subsequently annexed the area in a move that was recognized by former President Donald Trump. But most of the international community considers the area to be occupied territory.

While Druze leaders still profess allegiance to Syria, relations with Israel are normally good.

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

Monitoring Desk
SPAIN: More than 30 migrants were feared dead after a dinghy headed for Spain's Canary Islands sank on Wednesday, two migration-focused organisations said on Wednesday.

Walking Borders and Alarm Phone said the dinghy was originally carrying 59 people.

Helena Maleno, head of Spain's Walking Borders migrants charity, said in a tweet that 39 people had drowned, without giving further details, while Alarm Phone, which operates a trans-European network supporting rescue operations, said 35 people were missing.

Earlier on Wednesday,

Alarm Phone reported the boat was making one of the Moroccan some 88 miles to the southeast of Gran Canaria island rescued 24 people.

The body of one child was recovered by the Spanish maritime rescue service and sent by helicopter to Gran Canaria, a Spanish coastguard source added.

Spain's coastguard nor the Moroccan authorities would confirm how many people had been on board the vessel or how many might be missing. A Spanish coastguard source told Reuters that an operation carried out by Morocco some 88 miles to the southeast of Gran Canaria island rescued 24 people.

The body of one child was recovered by the Spanish maritime rescue service and sent by helicopter to Gran Canaria, a Spanish coastguard source added.

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

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: European Union countries on Wednesday agreed on a new package of sanctions against Russia for its war against Ukraine aimed at countering sanctions circumvention through third countries and businesses.

The EU had previously imposed 10 rounds of sanctions on Russia since President Vladimir Putin ordered his forces into Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022. Banks, companies and markets have been hit — even parts of the sensitive energy sector. More than 1,000 officials are subject to asset freezes and travel bans. Much work in the latest batch of sanctions has involved closing loopholes so that goods vital to Putin's war effort don't get through via nations that trade with the EU and have maintained a business-as-usual relationship with Moscow.

European Commission President Ursula von

der Leyen, the head of the EU's executive arm, said the new package will "deal a further blow to Putin's war machine with tightened export restrictions, targeting entities supporting the Kremlin."

"Our anti-circumvention tool will prevent Russia from getting its hands on sanctioned goods," she added.

It is the first time that plans have been announced to target trade via other countries, apart from sanctions against Iranians alleged to be supplying drones to Russia.

It also prohibits the transit via Russia of products and technologies which might help boost its defense and security sector.

Under the latest package, if the EU sees for example that exports of a certain computer chip increase five-fold to one nation, and then sees that such exports from the country increase by about the same amount to Russia.

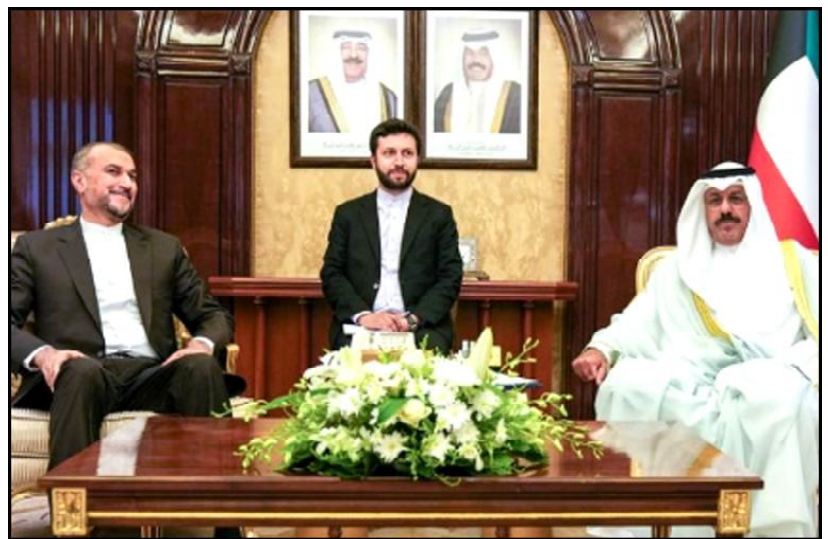
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Kuwait's Prime Minister Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf al-Ahmad al-Sabah meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, in Kuwait City.

US Coast Guard confirms 'underwater noises' detected in search for missing sub

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Rescuers searching for a missing tourist submersible near the wreck of the Titanic near the wreck of the Titanic have detected "underwater noises" in the search area, the US Coast Guard said on Wednesday, with oxygen for the five on board rapidly running out more than two days after they lost contact.

All communication was lost with the 21-foot craft during its descent Sunday to see the remains of the British passenger liner, which sits more than two miles (nearly four kilometers) below the surface of the North Atlantic.

The Titan, operated by US-based OceanGate Expeditions, was built to stay underwater for 96 hours, according to its specifications — giving the

five people aboard until Thursday morning before air runs out.

Engro Corp Vice Chairman Shahzada Dawood, his 19-year-old son Suleman, British billionaire Hamish Harding, French explorer Paul-Henri Nargeolet, OceanGate CEO Stockton Rush were on board the craft that went missing near the wreck of the Titanic.

Suleman and Shahzada Dawood. — Reuters

US and Canadian coast guard ships and planes are scouring 7,600 square miles of ocean (around 20,000 square kilometers) — larger than the US state of Connecticut — for the vessel, which was attempting to dive about 400 miles off the coast of Newfoundland, Canada.

Iran alcohol poisoning kills 15, leaves 180 hospitalised

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iranian state media reported Wednesday that as many as 15 people have lost their lives in Alborz province due to drinking poisonous alcohol with 180 others hospitalised, adding that some of the people suffered blindness after consuming bootleg alcohol while others are being treated.

Hossein Fazeli Harikandi, the chief justice of the province, told IRNA news agency: "So far, 15 people have died and 180 people have been poisoned and hospitalised." Most of those hospitalised had since been discharged, but "some have gone blind," while others were undergoing dialysis after suffering kidney damage. Deaths related to these incidents have been on the rise in the country despite a widespread ban on alcoholic beverages since the 1979 Iranian Revolution.

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

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Kazakhstan abruptly said on Wednesday it will stop hosting talks aimed at resolving the Syrian conflict that erupted 12 years ago. The decision was a surprise to Russia and other participants at the wrapping up of the 20th round of talks held in the capital, Astana.

Since 2017, the former Soviet nation has provided a venue for talks to representatives of Russia, Turkey, Syria and Iran on ways

to resolve the Syrian conflict. Kazakhstan's Foreign Ministry said that the talks have fulfilled their mission and "the initial goals, including the creation of de-escalation zones, ending the bloodshed and reducing the number of casualties have been fully implemented."

The foreign ministry spokesman, Aibek Smadiyarov, cited Syria's recent return to the Arab League and the efforts to restore ties with Turkey.

Taiwan reports Chinese aircraft carrier sailed through strait

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: A Chinese aircraft carrier group led by the vessel Shandong sailed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait on Wednesday, Taiwan's defence ministry said, amid heightened military tension over the island Beijing claims as its own territory.

The ministry said the Shandong, commissioned in 2019, had sailed in a southerly direction through the western part of the strait, and it had dispatched "appropriate forces" to monitor the Chinese activities.

German woman convicted of keeping Yazidi woman as a slave in Iraq

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: A German woman was convicted Wednesday of keeping a Yazidi woman as a slave during her time with the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, and sentenced to nine years and three months in prison.

The state court in the western city of Koblenz convicted the 37-year-old of crimes against humanity, membership in a foreign terrorist organization and being an accessory to genocide, German news agency dpa reported. Authorities have identified her only as Nadine K. in line with German privacy rules.

The court found that the defendant for three years abused a young Yazidi woman "in her own interests as a household slave." It said that her husband brought the woman to their home and regularly raped her, and that the defendant enabled those assaults and should have intervened.

Prosecutors have said

that the defendant traveled to Syria with her husband in 2014 and joined IS. In 2015, the couple moved to the Iraqi town of Mosul, where they allegedly kept the Yazidi woman.

The defendant was arrested in March 2022 after being brought back to Germany from a camp in northeastern Syria where suspected members of IS have been held.

In a statement read out at her trial by a defense lawyer, she denied having coerced the Yazidi woman at any point. She said there had been frequent arguments with her husband over the woman's presence and she was ashamed of not having done more for her.

In February, the Yazidi woman testified at the trial and said she recognized the defendant.

She traveled to Koblenz again for the verdict. "She hopes that others follow her example" and that all who committed similar crimes face trial, said her lawyer, Sonka Mehner.

Biden's son reaches plea deal on gun, tax charges

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden's son Hunter has agreed to plead guilty to two counts of failure to pay federal income tax, and admitted to illegally owning a gun, prosecutors said on Tuesday.

Hunter Biden, whose business dealings have been under attack for years from Republican lawmakers, acknowledged possessing a firearm despite being a drug user.

The plea agreement between the 53-year-old and the US Attorney's Office in his home state of Delaware will still need to be approved by a federal judge. The president's son is unlikely to face any prison time.

President Biden and his wife, Jill, issued a brief statement following the announcement of the deal.

"The President and First Lady love their son and support him as he continues to rebuild his life," White House spokesperson Jan Sams said.

Iran has talks with EU's Mora amid efforts to save nuclear pact

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran met in Qatar with European Union mediator Enrique Mora as part of efforts to revive its 2015 nuclear pact with world powers, as Tehran and Washington seek to cool tensions with a mutual "understanding" to help end the deadlock.

Having failed to revive the deal in indirect talks that have stalled since September, Iranian and Western officials have met repeatedly in recent weeks to sketch out steps that could curb Iran's fast advancing nuclear work, free some U.S. and European detainees

held in Iran and unfreeze some Iranian assets abroad. "(I) had a serious and constructive meeting with Mora in Doha. We exchanged views and discussed a range of issues including negotiations on sanctions lifting," Iranian chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani said on Twitter, without elaborating.

Mora tweeted that the Doha talks were "intense" and had touched on "a range of difficult bilateral, regional and international issues, including the way forward on the JCPOA" — the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Kremlin says Biden calling Xi a 'dictator' shows U.S. unpredictability

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia said on Wednesday that U.S. President Joe Biden's reference to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping as a dictator showed U.S. foreign policy was inconsistent and erratic.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said there was a contradiction between Biden's comment and the efforts of his secretary of state, Antony Blinken, to lower tensions with Beijing at a meeting with Xi earlier this week.

UN expert urges a different approach to resolve the crisis in Myanmar

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — An independent expert working with the United Nations on the issue of human rights in Myanmar urged the international community on Wednesday to find a different approach to resolve the crisis in the Southeast Asian country, saying the current course of action is not working.

Tom Andrews, a special rapporteur working with the U.N. human rights office, told a news conference in Jakarta the world is looking to Indonesia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for leadership on the situation in Myanmar.

"I came to Indonesia because the human rights situation in Myanmar is dire and getting worse, and because I believe that Indonesia is positioned to play a critical role in the resolution of this crisis," Andrews said after meeting with Indonesian and ASEAN officials.

Myanmar's crisis began after its military in February 2021 seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. The takeover prompted widespread public protests, whose violent suppression by security forces triggered an armed resistance that now spans much of the country.

German far-right to nominate chancellor candidate as support soars

Monitoring Desk
BERLIN: The far-right Alternative for Germany said on Wednesday it intended to nominate a chancellor candidate for the first time for the 2025 election as it soars in the polls, a day after the domestic spy agency cautioned voters about backing the party.

Founded a decade ago, the AfD has surged to second place in opinion polls due to voter worries about recession, migration and the transition to a carbon-neutral economy, political analysts say.

The anti-establishment party is also benefiting from voter distrust in Chancellor Olaf Scholz's awkward three-party coalition that has spent much of the past few months fighting publicly over how to deal with these crises.

Support for the AfD is running at a record 19-20%, behind the opposition conservatives on 27-28% but ahead or on a par with Scholz's Social Democrats and well ahead of the two junior partners in his coalition. Asked by broadcaster ntv if the AfD would name

a chancellor candidate, party co-chief Alice Weidel said "of course, we would also nominate (one) without these polling numbers", side-stepping a question about whether she would present herself.

The likelihood of an AfD candidate becoming Germany's chancellor is very low currently given the party would need to be able to form a government and currently all other parties have ruled out working with it.

Still, the gesture of nominating a candidate would denote the ambition of the most successful far-right party in Germany since the Nazis, which is increasingly shaking up the political landscape of Europe's most populous country and largest economy. That authorities are worried about the situation was highlighted on Tuesday, when the head of the domestic spy agency Thomas Haldenwang warned citizens that far-right extremism posed the biggest threat to German democracy and voters should bear this in mind before casting their ballot for the AfD.



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

