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No power on earth can hamper Pakistan's progress PM, COAS vow to put country on road to progress through Green Pakistan Initiative

Green Pakistan Initiative to usher in agri revolution, create four mln jobs, says PM; Army assures gov't of all-out support for economic stability; Pakistani nation has potential to rise to the top; No power on the earth can stop Pakistan from developing, says Army Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said that the Green Pakistan Initiative would eventually bring about the second agriculture revolution, in addition to the creation of four million jobs in the country. Addressing a seminar on agriculture and food security, he said agriculture was the backbone of the country and the farmers worked hard to provide food to millions of people and they would be remembered in the history as builders of Pakistan. He said the farmers had the due right to avail incentives for the agriculture sector and it was the responsibility of the government to provide them all possible assistance for overall development and progress. "Farmers work hard but it is common knowledge that they are facing lack of re-

sources," he added. The prime minister said growth in the agriculture sector would definitely bring Pakistan at par with developed countries. He said hard work was imperative to ensure progress of Pakistan, adding the green revolution in 1960s was due to the introduction of new varieties of seed, building of dams and canals and modern agriculture practices in the country. He said farmers should get more profits than the cost of production of their crops including wheat. The government did increase the support price of wheat which led to record produce of the commodity, he added. He was hopeful that due to the incentives given by the government, cotton produce would also enhance. He said it was the re-

sponsibility of the government to provide standard seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers and equip them with the latest technology. Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the new agriculture initiative for giving real-time information about any pest attacks. He expressed concern over the adulterated drugs given to the farmers and warned of strict action against the culprits. He lauded the vision of Army Chief Syed Asim Munir for development of agriculture sector in the country. "We have to implement the vision for agriculture through collaboration among federal and provincial governments, agriculture departments and research institutes," he added. He said the government was ready to fund the agriculture research centres, adding unfortunately there had been no worthwhile

work due to the culture of favouritism. Shehbaz Sharif said state-owned enterprises were losing Rs 600 billion annually. Pakistan imported \$ 4.5 billion of palm oil which was a burden on the national economy, he noted. There was a time when Pakistan was producing more cotton than its neighbouring country but then it lost the track and was now producing less of staple crops, he said adding Pakistan could not afford more foreign loans but was forced to save its economy from default by getting loans from friendly countries, he added. The PM said Gulf countries were ready to invest in the agriculture sector and bring modern machinery to boost crop production in the country. Pakistan needed political stability to attract investment as in an unstable

environment, investors shied away, he added. Pakistan could attract investment of \$ 40 to 50 billion in the years ahead and it could make food exports to the Gulf countries which were presently importing food products worth \$ 40 billion. He was of the view that Pakistan had to compete with the world and increase its exports and added the economy would get revived in the next two years. "It is demand of our national security that the country's food security and economic security should be strengthened," he said. Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir has assured Pakistan Army's full support for all the initiatives being initiated under the ambit of Special Investment Facilitation Council, including Green Pakistan Initiative launched today.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates Green Pakistan Initiative, COAS General Syed Asim Munir hands over the inaugural scroll to the Prime Minister.

May 9 incidents benefit Pakistan's 'enemy', nation triumphed with foiling of conspiracy: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Monday said the May 9 incidents had only benefited the "enemy", but it was the nation who ultimately emerged victorious with the foiling of conspiracy against Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb addressing a press conference.

Ironically, she said, the "foreign agent", who masterminded the May 9 tragedy made a tweet the other day asking who benefited from the May 9 tragedy. "Only the enemies of the country benefited from the acts of vandalism and arson, but the people of Pakistan are the ultimate winners as the conspiracy against the country's integrity has been foiled," she said while addressing a press conference. The minister was responding to a question

posed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on his Twitter handle asking who was benefited from the May 9 incidents of vandalising public and private properties, desecrating memorials of martyrs, and burning of ambulances, schools and mosques by the PTI workers. Marriyum said the PTI chairman claimed that his party was the biggest one in the country, but it existed only on Twitter as it had no credible spokesperson. In fact nobody wanted to come forward to defend the persistent lies churned out by its chairman.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to Dr. Syed Muhammad Anwar as the Alim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President administers oath to Dr Syed Anwar as Alim Judge of FSC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday administered oath to Dr Syed Muhammad Anwar as Alim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court at a ceremony held here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The appointment has been made for a period of three years. The president administered the oath in line with clause (2) of the Article 203C of the Constitution.

PM dares Imran Niazi to face courts for his crimes, corruption

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday dared Imran Niazi to face courts for his crimes and cases of corruption and plunder, and severely criticized him for carrying out revenge against Nawaz Sharif, his party and for fabricating false cases against political opponents. In a tweet tagging the account of Imran Niazi, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Allah for making his party including his Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif victorious against lies of opponent political group blinded by political revenge, against baseless cases and in every test of public service. Not only in Pakistan but in the decisions of National Crime Agency and courts of Britain there was

satisfactory and sufficient response to every question of merchants of lies, he added. The PM said the latest example was the verdict in the plot allotment reference in the Accountability Court Lahore in which it was clearly stated that Nawaz Sharif was made target of political victimization and there was no case but it was a fabrication. The transgressors who called this falsehood a reference should seek forgiveness from Allah and the people, he said, adding, "But only those seek forgiveness who have fear of Allah in their hearts and have the capacity to ask for clemency. Those who justify their sins with more lies become an example for others. Their hearts are locked by Allah."

JUI-F Amir Maulana Fazl calls on PM to discuss political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Amir of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to hold consultations over the current political situation of the country. During the meeting, Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood was also present, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. Both leaders of JUI-F appreciated the firm reaction and steps of the government and prime minister with regard to the highly condemnable act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden. Maulana Fazlur Rehman termed the incident in Sweden as highly regret-

ful and lauded the prime minister and the government of Pakistan for a narrative in this regard. He also lauded the efforts of the coalition government under the leadership of the prime minister to steer the country out of the economic difficulties and put it on the path of prosperity. The prime minister also appreciated the role of the coalition partners in the government and said that without their cooperation, taking the country out of its economic woes and reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), were not possible. He praised JUI-F amir for standing with the government in taking the difficult decisions.

KKH closed for traffic near Hassanabad due to landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Karakoram Highway is closed for traffic near Hassanabad due to landslides. A Spokesman of the National Highway Authority (NHA) said on Monday that necessary machinery has been delivered, and the road is being opened. He said that N-35 is closed for all types of traffic near Nasirabad due to landslides. He asked the citizens traveling on the highway to start their journey after getting the necessary information.

Dr Ramesh says Tourism promotion to help in making Pak development roadmap

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State, Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani Monday said the promotion of religious tourism would play a key role in making a roadmap of prosperity and development of the country. He was flanked by a delegation of Buddhist monks from Vietnam here, the minister said the incumbent government was serious about promoting and projecting the country's tourism to highlight the soft image of the country. He said that Pakistan was fully safe for tourists, and offered the rich cultural heritage of the ancient Gandhara Civilization. He said the promotion of religious tourism would lead to enhance commercial activities and attract foreign exchange. Dr. Ramesh Kumar said the symposium would also help to promote the soft image of the country and provide

connectivity with the world. A three-day international Gandhara symposium will commence in Islamabad on July 11 to showcase the treasure trove Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan, he added. Speaking on the occasion, the Buddhist Monks from Vietnam lauded Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his government for facilitating Buddhist people and followers of other faiths to explore Gandhara Civilization and sites of Buddhism in Pakistan. They said there will be more travelers in the future to visit the cultural heritage of Pakistan. They urged the media to play its due role in promoting Gandhara civilization. and Pakistan's potential for religious tourism. The delegation also took a round of the Islamabad Museum and showed keen interest in Pakistan's Buddhist heritage.



ISLAMABAD: President JUI-F Maulana Fazlur Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PM felicitates Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his re-election as Uzbek President

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has extended heartfelt congratulations to Shavkat Mirziyoyev on his re-election as President of Uzbekistan. In a tweet on Monday, he said Shavkat Mirziyoyev's electoral victory is reflective of the trust that people of Uzbekistan repose in his leadership. The Prime Minister said he looks forward to working with the Uzbek President to further build on Pakistan-Uzbekistan bilateral relations for the benefit of the two friendly countries.

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Fitch upgrades Pak to 'CCC', Dar greets nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Fitch Ratings has upgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC' from 'CCC', indicating a positive development towards the betterment of the country's economy. Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar in a tweet said it was another positive development towards current economic revival journey. He congratulated Prime Minister, nation, government allies and economic team for this achievement. "Global Rating Agency 'Fitch' upgrades Pakistan's Long Term Foreign-Currency

rating to CCC from IDR (Issuer Default Rating)... Another positive news towards current economic revival journey, Ahamdolillah... Congratulations to PM @CMShehbaz, the Nation, Govt Allies & Economic Team," the minister tweeted. The rating agency has identified key indicators that contributed to the positive development rating for the country which include improvement in easing external financing risks. It says the upgrade reflects Pakistan's improved external liquidity and funding conditions following its Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a nine-month Stand-by Arrangement.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervez Ashraf in a meeting with Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar at Parliament House.

Govt decides to appoint trade officer in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has decided to appoint a trade officer in India despite a halt to commercial traffic between the two countries since New Delhi altered the status of Occupied Kashmir in 2019. According to media reports, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has ordered initiating the process for appointed a new trade officer in India despite suspension of trading between the two neighbours. The prime minister also abolished the grade-20 post of trade and investment minister in India. The important decision has been taken to appoint a trade and investment consular on grade-19 post. The important decision has been made just a month before the constitutional term of the government end to appoint the officer at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

Digital economy vital for sustainable development, says Ahsan Iqbal

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Monday shed light on the importance of growing the digital economy, termed digital economy is vital to ensure sustainable development of the country. The minister made these remarks while speaking at the panel discussion titled: "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) here. It is noted that the Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is on a four-day official visit to China to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 (tomorrow) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity.



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Non-controversial care taker set up to help conduct fair elections: Kirmani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Asif Kirmani on Sunday said that a non-controversial care taker set up would help conduct transparent elections in Pakistan. Talking to a private television channel, he said there is a serious need to have consultation with leaders of political parties especially Pakistan Peoples Party and Pakistan Muslim League-N Chief Nawaz Sharif to establish Care taker government in August. The general elections would be held in October under the supervision of Care taker government, he said. The election commission of Pakistan (ECP), is responsible to hold the general elections in a transparent manner, he added. To a question about the representative of care taker government, he said the discussion is underway to introduce Non-controversial personalities.

Court acquits Suleman, others in money-laundering case

LAHORE (APP): A special court (central) on Monday acquitted Suleman Shehbaz and others in a Rs 16 billion money-laundering case, registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Special Court Judge Bakht Fakhir Behzad announced the verdict while allowing acquittal applications of Suleman Shehbaz and others. Earlier, the FIA submitted replies to 27 questions, asked by the court, during the proceedings. To a court query, the FIA prosecutor submitted that a joint investigation team, headed by Dr Rizwan, had conducted an inquiry into the money-laundering charges. The court asked whether the FIA recorded statements of any witnesses during the probe. The investigation officer kept silence and did not reply.

what action had been taken against those who kept changing their stance during the inquiry and investigation. The investigation officer responded that no action had been taken against them. The court asked whether there was any evidence in seven volumes of the FIA, submitted in the court earlier, and on what basis or of evidence, a challan was submitted in the court. To a question about former FIA DG Sanaullah Abbasi's absence from the court, the FIA prosecutor replied that a letter was written to him, but he did not appear. Suleman's counsel submitted that former FIA DG Bashir Memon had admitted that he also faced pressure for making the case. The FIA prosecutor submitted that there was no direct evidence of money laundering against Suleman Shehbaz.

CM approves free treatment for people in emergencies at social security hospitals

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over a meeting at his office which approved free treatment for the general public in emergencies at social security hospitals, demonstrating the government's commitment to providing accessible healthcare.

The meeting, in principle, endorsed the provision of free treatment to domestic workers in social security hospitals as a fundamental principle.

To ensure the implementation of these decisions, the Punjab government will bear the expenses for the free treatment of domestic workers in social security hospitals. Moreover, domestic workers will have the option to avail the treatment facilities through health cards.

In cases where the expenses exceed the specified limit of the health card, the Punjab government will cover the additional costs, ensuring comprehensive healthcare coverage for the workers.

As part of the efforts to streamline healthcare services, digital cards will be issued to patients receiving treatment at social security hospitals.

In order to support the implementation of these measures and ensure the certainty of treatment for domestic workers, a grant of Rs.200 million was allocated to the Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) during the meeting.

Provincial Ministers Dr Javed Akram, Amir Mir, and Mansoor Qadir, health, finance, labor & information departments' secretaries, commissioner PESSI, and others attended the meeting, while Minister for Primary & Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir participated through video link.

Meanwhile, Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office to discuss the progress of development projects in the Sahiwal division.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presides over the meeting to review matter of Social Security Hospitals.

PSCA provides more than 20,000 video, audio evidences for investigation

LAHORE (APP): A delegation of DGPR research associates from the Chief Minister Internship program paid a study visit to Punjab Safe Cities Authority Headquarters, here on Monday.

The delegation, led by Director Film and Publication Hamid Javed Awan, was received and briefed by the Director Public Relations Tauseef Sabih Gondal.

The research associates were briefed on public awareness campaigns, media management, and women safety application features.

The Director Public Relations said that the Integrated 15 system of Safe Cities Authority has significantly improved the police response time while the implementation of the Intelligent Traffic Management System has reduced the number of fatal accidents by 43 percent.

House gutted, girl injured

FAISALABAD (APP): A minor girl received burn injuries during house-ablaze incident in the area of Sargodha Road police station. Rescue 1122 spokesman said here on Monday that a house situated at Mohallah Shah Abad near Crescent Mills Sargodha Road caught fire due to short-circuiting. The fire engulfed the entire surroundings and burnt precious house luggage present on the spot. Receiving information, fire fighters of Rescue 1122 rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control after hectic efforts of many hours.



PESHAWAR: Advisor to PM Engineer Ameer Muqam and Special Assistant to PM Attaullah Tarar meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Meeting held to create awareness against dengue in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Secretary Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Mehood Aslam Wazir on Monday held a meeting with the Dengue Volunteer Task Force to discuss the current situation of virus throughout the province.

The meeting focused on raising awareness, strengthening surveillance efforts, and implementing preventive measures against dengue in different districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Dengue Volunteer Task Force led by Deputy Chief Atiq Ahmed and Divisional Warden Sartaj Khan, actively participated in the discussion.

Recognizing the urgency to control the spread of dengue in the province, the Secretary Health appealed to the Dengue Volunteer Task Force to collaborate with the Health Department in order to effectively combat dengue across the province.

During the meeting the Task Force officials assured the Secretary Health of their unwavering support at both the district and provincial levels.

Two children die as landslide hits Swat houses

SWAT (INP): Two children were killed and two others injured when a landslide hit their houses in Gulabad, Swat district on Monday.

According to Rescue 1122, there were reports of people including children buried under the debris when the landslide hit their houses.

On receiving the information, Rescue 1122 medical and disaster rescue teams reached the spot and started the search operation. The rescue team managed to pull out two children but two children died due to injuries and suffocation. The injured have been shifted to the Saidu Sharif Hospital.

FBR, Custom hailed for transforming public schools of GB into smart schools

GILGIT (APP): The Government of Gilgit-Baltistan extended its heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to Chairman FBR, Member Custom Operations, Chief Collector Customs (North), and Collector Customs GB Syed Fawad Ali Shah for their generous sponsorship and support in transforming three government schools in Gilgit-Baltistan into Smart schools.

Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Muhiudeen Wani in an official statement to the media said in recognition of this significant contribution, a Letter of Understanding (LoU) signing ceremony was held today at the office of the Chief Secretary, Gilgit-Baltistan.

CS GB said the initiative to upgrade these government schools into Smart schools aligns with the government's commitment to modernize the education system and provide students with access to cutting-edge technology and resources.

He said by embracing digital tools and interactive learning environments, the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan aims to empower the youth, enhance their educational experiences, and foster a brighter future for the region.



LAHORE: A view of the large number of people at Railway Station as the population of the country is increasing day by day along with problems, for which 11 every year world observed World Population Day to raise awareness of global population issues.

ANF recovers over 36 kg drugs in nine operation; arrests seven accused

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 36 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation near Khana Road, Rawalpindi, an accused resident of Quetta was also netted. In fifth operation near Shakarpur road Sukkur, two kg charras was recovered from the possession of a drug smuggler, resident of Khairpur. In sixth operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, ANF recovered 101 heroin.

In fourth operation near Godap Town Karachi, 1.7 kg Ice drug and two kg heroin were recovered from a vehicle while an accused resident of Quetta was also netted. In fifth operation near Shakarpur road Sukkur, two kg charras was recovered from the possession of a drug smuggler, resident of Khairpur. In sixth operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, ANF recovered 101 heroin.

KP witnesses significant fall in anti-polio drops refusal cases

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has recorded a significant decrease in anti-polio refusal cases as according to Emergency Operation Center, KP, a reduction of 35 percent was recorded among families refusing anti-polio drops to their children during the vaccination carried out in the month of June.

The Center said that a drop of 25 percent was recorded among children left deprived of the anti-polio drops in the province. Last year, all the 20 polio attack cases were reported from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa however this year the number of these cases significantly dropped to only one. The Center further said that in 2016 for the first time the anti-polio campaign received the strong support.

6 acres state land retrieved

FAISALABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Chak Jhumra Sultan Zafar has retrieved state land of 6 acres from 'Qabza Mafia' and handed it over to Revenue department for its safety. According to a spokesman of local administration, the AC Chak Jhumra along with team reached in Chak No. 18-GB where the land grabbers had occupied 6 acres of state land. The AC retrieved the land which has an approximate market value of millions of rupees.

International News

Biden meets King Charles and PM Sunak, hails 'rock solid' UK ties

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: U.S. President Joe Biden made a whistle-stop trip to Britain on Monday, hailing the "rock-solid" friendship with Washington's close ally before meeting King Charles for a discussion with the monarch and finance chiefs on tackling climate change.

Biden's visit to Britain kicked off a three-nation trip that will include the NATO summit in Lithuania, at which allies aim to show solidarity with Ukraine against Russia's invasion while not yet accepting Kyiv as an alliance member.

The president's meeting with British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, their fifth in as many months, lasted less than an hour, with the focus on Ukraine.

"We've got a lot to talk about," said Biden as they sat in the garden of Sunak's Downing Street office.

"Our relationship is rock-solid. Couldn't be meeting with a closer friend and a greater ally," Sunak and Biden shared notes before the NATO summit which kicks off on Tuesday. Ahead of the trip, Biden urged caution for now on Ukraine's campaign to join NATO, whose mutual defence pact obliges all members to come to the aid of any member that is attacked. "We want to work with the U.S. and our allies on the pathway for Ukraine to join," Sunak's spokesperson told reporters, saying it would not be appropriate for Ukraine to join while the war was ongoing.

The leaders also discussed the U.S. decision to send Ukraine cluster munitions, which are banned by more than 100 countries, including Britain, which view them as a potential threat to civilian populations because they typically release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately.

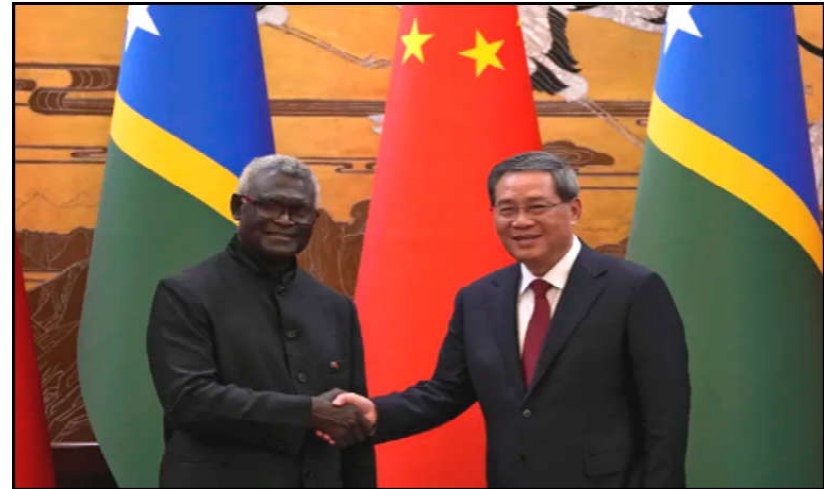
Britain's King Charles and The President of the United States, Joe Biden on stage in the Quadrangle at Windsor Castle on July 10, 2023 in Windsor, England. Chris Jackson/Pool via REUTERS

Russia, Ukraine and the United States have not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans their production, stockpiling, use and transfer. "We stand by our obligations under the convention, which include discouraging their use. There is no change from us on that, obviously it is for each country to make a decision," Sunak's spokesperson said.

After the meeting, Biden, 80, headed to Windsor Castle to meet the king, where he was greeted with traditional pomp and ceremony in the castle quadrangle.



Joe Biden was welcomed by King Charles to Windsor Castle for his first meeting with the monarch since he was officially crowned.



Visiting Solomon Islands Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, left, shakes hands with his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang after they witnessed signing on agreement for both countries at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Solomon Islands leader visits Beijing, highlighting US-China rivalry in South Pacific

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Leaders of the Solomon Islands and China promised Monday to expand relations that have fueled unease in Washington and Australia about Beijing's influence in the South Pacific. Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare met Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the country's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang. Sogavare and Li presided over the signing of agreements on police, economic and technical cooperation. "We are here to further boost relations," Sogavare told Li following a ceremony at which a Chinese military band played the Solomon Islands national anthem.

The Solomon Islands, 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of Australia, has been China's biggest success in a campaign to expand its presence in the South Pacific. Sogavare's government switched official recognition in 2019 to Beijing from Taiwan, the self-governed island democracy claimed by the mainland's ruling Communist Party as part of its territory. "Solomon Islands, sir, has a lot to learn from China's development experience," Sogavare told Li. He welcomed an opportunity for dialogue to enhance "bilateral interaction and cooperation." The two governments "have decided to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership of mutual respect and common development," Li said. "The relationship between China and the Solomon Islands has developed rapidly, and we can now say that it is very fruitful."

Erdogan links Sweden's Nato bid with Turkey's EU membership

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: Nato's efforts to present a united front at a summit focused on helping Ukraine defeat Russia and Kyiv's push to join the alliance were undermined on Monday by a shock Turkish ultimatum on Sweden's membership bid.

As Ukraine's forces claimed more advances against Russian positions, Nato's 31 members agreed to simplify Kyiv's eventual accession bid by dropping a requirement that it completes a formal road map of reforms. Alliance leaders gathering in Vilnius on the eve of Tuesday's summit were hoping a meeting between Erdogan and Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson would see the Turkish leader lift his veto on Sweden's membership. But President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared in no mood to compromise, declaring that he would only back Sweden's Nato candidacy if European Union members — most of whom are also Nato allies — agree to revive Turkey's negotiations to join the EU.

Putin held post-mutiny talks with Wagner leader Prigozhin and his fighters - Kremlin

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin has held Kremlin talks with Wagner mercenary group founder Yevgeny Prigozhin and his commanders to discuss the armed mutiny Wagner attempted to mount against the army's top brass, Putin's spokesman said on Monday.

The meeting was first reported by French newspaper Liberation, which said Prigozhin had met Putin and the head of the National Guard, Viktor Zolotov, and SVR Foreign Intelligence boss Sergei Naryshkin.

The meeting, according to Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, was held on June 29, five days after the aborted mutiny, which is widely regarded to have posed the most serious challenge to Putin since he came to power on the last day of 1999.

Peskov told reporters that Putin had invited 35 people to the meeting, including Prigozhin and Wagner unit commanders, and that the meeting had lasted three hours.

"The only thing we can say is that the president gave his assessment of the company's (Wagner's) actions at the front during the Special Military Operation (in Ukraine) and also gave his assessment of the events of 24 June (the day of the mutiny)," Peskov told reporters.

He said Putin had listened to the commanders' own explanations of what had happened and had offered them further options for employment and combat.

"The commanders outlined their version of what happened (on June 24). They emphasised that they are staunch supporters and soldiers of the head of state and the supreme commander-in-chief. They also said that they are ready to continue fighting for the Motherland," said Peskov.

The brief mutiny led by Prigozhin, in which Wagner fighters took control of the southern city of Rostov-on-Don and a military headquarters building, was defused in a deal brokered by Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko.

Putin, who likened the events to the turmoil which engulfed Russia in the run-up to the 1917 Russian Revolution, has since thanked his army and security services for averting chaos and civil war. Prigozhin has said the mutiny was not aimed at overthrowing the government but at "bringing to justice" the army and defence chiefs for what he called their blunders and unprofessional actions in Ukraine.

Putin has so far kept Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chief of the General Staff Valery Gerasimov in place, judging by appearances by both men on state TV - rejecting Prigozhin's appeals to sack them.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev re-elected as Uzbekistan's President

Monitoring Desk
TASHKENT: President Shavkat Mirziyoyev has secured a landslide victory in the presidential election held on July 9, being re-elected as the President of Uzbekistan with an overwhelming 87.1% of the vote.

The Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan announced the preliminary results, revealing the extent of the president's popular support. A significant number of voters participated in the election, with 15.6 million citizens, accounting for 79.8% of registered voters, casting their votes. Among them 87.05% voted in the favour of Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to meet UN SDGs with enhanced coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan was keen to expand its cooperation with partner countries to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2030.

The prime minister virtually participated in the First High-Level Forum on Global Development Initiative (GDI). Held under the theme of Global Development Initiative: "Echo the Development Agenda and Call for Global Action", the forum was organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), the PM

Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Shehbaz, in his remarks, stressed the salience of international development cooperation to present a unified global response for socio-economic development, mitigation of climate change threats, and galvanizing new drivers of growth for humanity's enduring progress and prosperity.

He also appreciated China for launching the Global Development Initiative for achieving shared goals of inclusive and sustainable global development.

Extending Pakistan's



ISLAMABAD: Attorney General for Pakistan, Mansoor Usman Awan called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Sherry condemns PTI chief's self-serving campaign as 'a bonfire of vanities'

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Senator Sherry Rehman on Monday condemned the PTI chief's self-serving campaign as "a bonfire of your vanities".

"You have become a parody of yourself, as the events of May 9 turned into a bonfire of your vanities. The entire nation witnessed it, and there is ample evidence to demonstrate how you incited, masterminded, and provoked mob violence. It is utterly absurd to believe that deploying armed rioters against

state installations, Edhi ambulances, radio stations, and monuments honoring our war heroes as part of your self-serving 'save-Imran' campaign would result in any political gains for yourself," tweeted Senator Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination in response to Chairman PTI Imran Khan's allegations on Twitter. Senator Rehman stated that the Pakistan Peoples Party had been a target of numerous politically charged persecutions over its history, but it has never resorted to attacking

the country's institutions like Khan did. "Despite enduring relentless targeting from both Imran Khan and the establishment, political parties maintained their dignity while facing endless political victimization. However, Khan's recent claim that women have never been incarcerated in Pakistan before now reflects a lack of historical awareness. Meanwhile, figures like Faryal Talpur and Maryam Nawaz were imprisoned by him as if they were terrorists. Rather than working towards democratic recovery in the face of his own failures.

48th INSC: Chairman PAEC inaugurates 'scientific spring'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 48th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs was inaugurated at National Center for Physics (NCP) Quaid-e-Azam University on Monday.

The INSC was inaugurated by the Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Raja Ali Raza Anwar. In the 48th International Nathiagali Summer College, a distinguished group of 30 experts from developed countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Australia, Spain, Türkiye, Romania, and Chile has been invited to deliver lectures on crucial topics throughout the two-week event. Out of a pool of over 1,200 applicants, approximately 250 researchers from universities and research organizations across Pakistan have been carefully selected to participate in the College.

This diverse gathering promises to facilitate meaningful exchanges and foster valuable connections among the participants, enriching the scientific

community in Pakistan. The scientific activities of the International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) are designed to encompass a wide range of topics at the forefront of knowledge in Physics and related disciplines.

Each year, the College focuses on three to five subjects that are of current interest, emphasizing their applications and their relevance to the specific needs of developing countries. In the 48th college, the topics being covered include 'Advances in Plasma Physics and Allied Technologies', Semiconductor Materials and Devices, Quantum Optics and Devices, Advances in Pulsed Power Technology and its application and New Trends in High Energy Physics. In his inaugural speech, Chairman PAEC, Dr. Raja Ali Raza Anwar underscored the significance of science and technology in the current era of rapidly expanding frontiers of knowledge.

He emphasized that for a nation to achieve genuine progress and prosperity, it must prioritize the acquisition and effective utilization of scientific advancements.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP).

Islamabad police implement new measures to ensure investigation adherence

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have appointed law officers to oversee investigation standards and bolster transparency and uphold the rule of law. During a meeting presided over by the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, law officers were entrusted with the meticulous task of thoroughly reviewing case files to ensure adherence to investigation standards and the pursuit of justice based on merit.

The meeting also focused on reviewing ongoing cases and assessing the performance of investigation officers. These appointments signify the first-ever collaboration between law officers and police officers in Pakistan, highlighting a concerted effort to promote transparency and

justice in law enforcement. The meeting, which witnessed the presence of influential figures including SSP Operations Malik Jamil Zafar, AIG Operations Saad Khan, all District Police Officers (DPOs), Sub-District Police Officers (SDPOs), law officers, and unit in-charges, emphasized the imperative of cooperation between law officers and investigation officers in legal matters.

Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, ICCPPO, underscored the paramount significance of conducting investigations and judicial proceedings in strict adherence to the law.

In a bid to rectify any previous gaps in investigations, the ICCPPO issued a directive to all DPOs and investigating officers, urging them to revisit incomplete cases promptly and impartially.

PTA clarifies false reports of Twitter blocking Pak govt's official account in G-B

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has addressed recent claims circulating on social media and certain sections of the news media regarding Twitter's alleged blockage of access to the Government of Pakistan's official account in Gilgit-Baltistan and the platform changing the region's location to parts of India.

"PTA's thorough investigation has revealed that no such problem exists, contrary to the information being circulated," said a news release.

In response to the claims, PTA conducted extensive on-ground testing to ascertain the veracity of the reports.

The findings indicate that any sporadic issues encountered are limited to a very small number of iOS devices, affecting only a handful of users.

Anti-social elements involve in social media propaganda to be brought to justice soon : SAPM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Malik Ahmed Khan Monday said that the whole nation stood with the army chief and that anti-social elements involved in the social media propaganda drive would be brought to justice soon as the investigation of this matter reached its final stages.

"Elements behind the social media propaganda campaign need to be exposed," he said while talking to a Private

news channel. "This negative social media drive was being hatched against national institutions to harm the country and it was pre-planned," he added.

"Anti-state elements are only active to destabilize the country politically and economically," he mentioned.

Replying to a question, he said hate statements through social media platforms and freedom of expression should not be confused. "There is a dire need

to restrict these hate speech platforms," he added.

He said, "His party is not believing in media regulation as free media defines the progress of any nation but such elements are crossing limits and exploiting the situation through their false statements and negative propaganda drives."

"It is a clear violation of fundamental rights of any citizen of the country which will be protected at any cost," he added.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Raja Ali Raza Anwar addressing during inaugural ceremony of 48th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs at National Center for Physics (NCP) Quaid-e-Azam University.

ANP expresses concern over unrest in Kurram on land dispute

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) leader Aimal Wali Khan on Monday expressed concerns over unrest and armed conflict in district Kurram over land dispute. In a statement issued here, he demanded of the provincial government and district administration to establish peace in the area and settle the matter amicably.

He said that there were

reports that the local people were willing to establish peace but the administration was not agreeing, adding that such an impression should be dispelled. He said that ANP would not tolerate negligence in the protection of the lives and properties of the people. He appealed to all the leaders and youth of Parachinar to show patience and remain calm as no problem could be solved through the fight.

Manzoor appointed IFA Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor has been appointed as Chairman of the Islamabad Futsal Association (IFA).

The annual meeting of Islamabad Futsal Association was held here under the chairmanship of Rana Tanveer Ahmed, and was participated by IFA Chairman Malik Mehrban Ali, Secretary General Adnan Malik and Chairman of Rawalpindi Futsal Association Shaukat Ali Khan.

In the meeting, Malik Mehrban Ali suggested the name of Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Bega as Chairman IFA to which all members agreed. Nadeem Manzoor was also the President of Bega Welfare Foundation.



ICCPO holds security meeting at Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police convened an important security meeting at Safe City Islamabad. Chaired by Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the meeting aimed to review the security arrangements for prominent personalities, including the President and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The meeting witnessed the presence of representatives from various law enforcement agencies, as well as senior police officers, who collectively deliberated on the vital task of enhancing security protocols and measures.

The ICCPPO emphasized the need to develop and implement a robust and foolproof strategy that would enhance the safety and well-being of important personalities and key public figures.

ICCPPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan reiterated the significance of comprehensive security arrangements. He emphasized the importance of constant assessment and evaluation of security protocols to adapt to evolving threats and challenges.

By prioritizing effective security measures, the Islamabad Capital Police aims to provide a secure environment for all individuals under their protection.

CPEC laid solid foundation for Pakistan's future development: Haque

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has changed Pakistan's infrastructure layout and laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's future development.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan in 2015, the two countries signed more than 50 co-operation agreements and launched a number of projects such as energy, transportation infrastructure and port construction under the CPEC framework, he told People's Daily in an interview.

He said that the power generation and distribution projects launched and completed by Pakistan and China have greatly alleviated Pakistan's power shortage and enhanced Pakistan's trade and investment image. By the end of 2022, the CPEC had directly created 236,000 jobs.

Terming Gwadar Port as the pearl of the CPEC, which is crucial to Pakistan's economic transformation, he said that this year, many key projects, including New Gwadar International Airport, will make important progress. The new projects will accelerate the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Trade Area.

Ambassador Haque said that the second phase of the construction of the CPEC has been launched, which will strongly promote the cooperation between the two countries in industry, science and technology, agriculture and other fields.

The CPEC is of great significance to Pakistan's economic development and social progress, which is the general consensus of all sectors in Pakistan, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed addressing during the event for "Ensuring access to Higher Education" as Organized Raabta at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.

Eco Hike 2023 organized to promote Eco-friendly tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Participants embarked on an exhilarating journey from Ganga Choti to Noor Gala, traversing through picturesque villages and rugged terrain.

Overnight camping amidst the enchanting surroundings of Mastan Dhok added a unique cultural experience to the adventure.

The primary objective of Eco Hike 2023 was to discover the verdant meadows and majestic mountains of Kashmir, which remain largely unexplored, while simultaneously promoting clean tourism and combating environmental pollution. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural resources and fostering a sustainable tourism industry.

The event which was held under the supervision of Alpine Club of Pakistan witnessed the participation of approximately 70 individuals from all four provinces of Pakistan and various districts of Azad Kashmir, said a press release.

The breathtaking Eco Hike took place along a challenging 40-kilometre trail in the Pir Panjal Range of Bagh District.

Over Rs 58b disbursed under Benazir Kafaalat so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs. 58 billion among more than 6.5 million beneficiary women across the country under the Benazir Kafaalat initiative.

According to an official source, the disbursement of the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued successfully through banks' retailers.

PID AJK delegation visits APP, briefed on working of Digital Media Wing

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Press Information Department, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, led by its Director Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas on Monday visited the headquarters of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) head office here with the objective to upgrade the PID Digital Media Section on modern lines.

After meeting with APP Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa and Executive Director News Hanif Sabir, the delegation took a round of the Digital

Media Wing to have a first hand account of the working.

District Information Officer Muzaffarabad Raja Sohail Khan and Programmer Sardar Shamim Anjum Aziz were also present on this occasion.

Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa, on the occasion, said as it was an age of social and digital media and that was why the APP was paying full attention to them. A studio had been set up to run the APP Web TV, he added.

Islamabad Science Camp 2.0 kicks off at AIUO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 5-day Hands-on Science Camp 2.0 started at the main campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) here.

Around 120 children aged 8 to 14 years from Islamabad and neighboring areas are participating in the camp, they will be trained to make five different robotic projects during this training camp.

This camp is being organized in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan Science Club, and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). The project has been formulated to teach fundamental principles of science to young minds to develop interests regarding science to keep in view the interests of today's generation on the special instruction of Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, AIUO.

Young artists call on Chairman Gandhara Task Force

ISLAMABAD (APP): A group of young artists working on Gandhara called on Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chairman PM's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism here Monday at Sir Syed Memorial Museum to share their work on Gandhara and display the works during the 2-day Gandhara Symposium.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar selected their work on Gandhara featuring paintings, sculptures in diverse mediums and ideas exploring potential and opportunities for Gandhara tourism in

Pakistan. He said these artists are our assets and we must create opportunities for them to polish their talent and attract young generation to the field of visual art.

The Chairman PM Task Force said the works contributed by these budding and established artists will be displayed during the two-day Gandhara Symposium and after this grand event, we will hold a national level Gandhara Art Competition to involve art students and artists for promotion of Gandhara tourism at home and abroad through such competitions.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.