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IMF Executive Board approves \$3b for Pakistan

IMF's Stand-by Agreement approval, a major step to help stabilize economy: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said International Monetary Funds (IMF), Executive Board approved USD 3 billion for Pakistan.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), and the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E) had also fulfilled their promises made to Pakistan regarding the deposit of two billion dollars and one billion dollars respectively in the State Bank of Pakistan, he said while talking to a private television channel.

The previous regime of Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf (PTI), he said had created problems for the

country's economy due to its weak policies and tough agreements with IMF. Now Pakistan's economy was moving in the right direction after the agreement with IMF, he stated.

Dar said Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had visited KSA, U.A.E and China for seeking financial help for Pakistan.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that the approval of the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) Executive Board for a Stand-by Agreement of \$3 billion, a little while ago, was a major step forward in the

government's efforts to stabilize the economy and achieve macroeconomic stability.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said that the agreement would bolster Pakistan's economic position to overcome immediate- to medium-term economic challenges, giving the next government the fiscal space to chart the way forward.

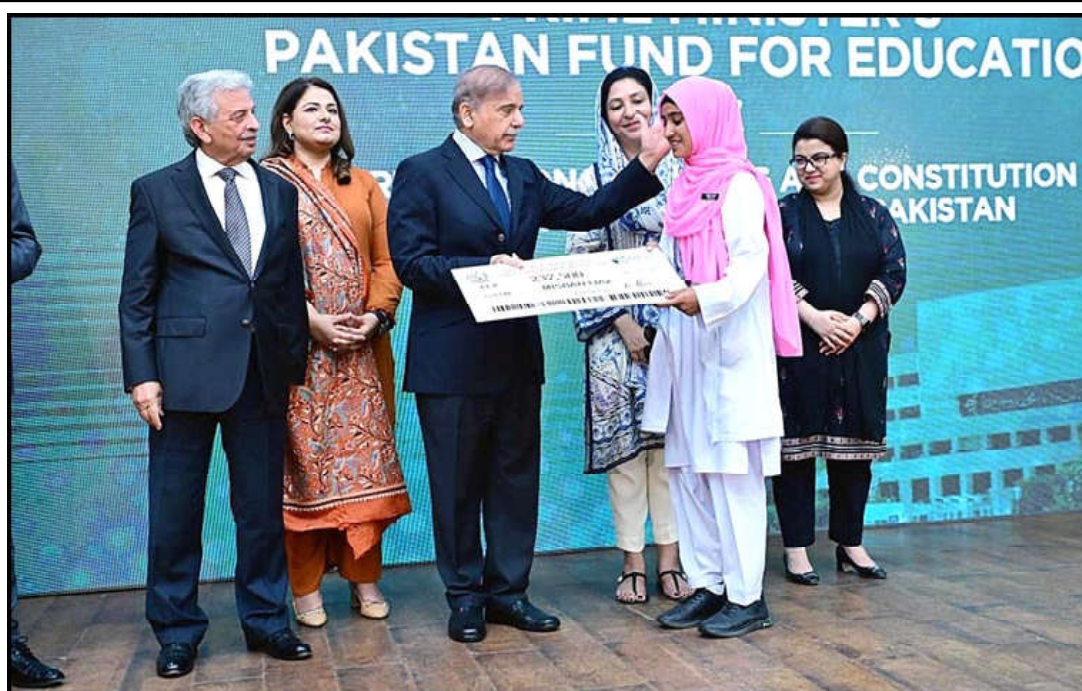
He further said that the milestone, which was achieved against the heaviest of odds and against seemingly impossible deadline, could not have been possible without excellent team effort.

PDM leaders hold 'consultation' on caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) leaders have 'begun' initial consultation for the caretaker prime minister.

The current National Assembly is completing its 5-year constitutional term next month (August) after which a caretaker prime minister will be appointed who will ensure elections within 60 days?

There was a disagreement in the coalition government on the election date as the Pakistan People's Party wanted elections to be held on time, while JUI-F and PDM chief Fazlur Rehman wanted a one-year extension in the tenure of existing assemblies.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes scholarship cheques among high-achieving students on merit basis under the Pakistan Endowment Fund for Education.

Our govt tenure to expire on August 14, EC will announce schedule for coming election: PM

Launches Pakistan Endowment Fund for Education, incorporation of coding, constitution in curriculum

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said tenure of our government will expire on August 14 and Election Commission (EC) will announce the date for next election.

"This is not matter of pride but it is matter of concern. There was a time when we competed neighboring countries. Today we are borrowing money from every where to save Pakistan from going default", PM said this while addressing Pakistan Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) and reforms in National Curriculum ceremony here

Wednesday.

He went on to say this journey was started in 2008 from Punjab. Punjab Endowment Education Fund was established under Nawaz Sharif.

The development and prosperity of country is possible through modern education, he stressed. Whichever government comes in future should raise education fund, he added.

Today there is meeting of IMF Executive Board. Pray for it that our program is approved in IMF meeting.

Educational scholarships were provided to

450000 boys and girls. Today thousands have become doctors and engineers among them.

It has been my endeavor to raise endowment fund from Rs 2 billion to Rs 5 billions. It is my desire Rs 140 billion is earmarked in next 10 years, he underlined.

When I was outside the country I talked to Dr Amjad Saqib about education, he added.

Pakistan land is fertile, he said adding hard time for Pakistan will soon be over and we will come to stability.

We are stunned if we go to Gulf desert, he said

adding youths can bring revolution in Pakistan too.

Promoting education is not politics but it is worship, he held.

China helped Pakistan in every hard time, he said adding We are grateful to Chinese leadership.

This is matter of grave concern for government, politicians, generals, judges and people from all walks of life and for me that what is reason that neighbouring countries have gone far ahead of us.

The Prime Minister was appreciative of the financial assistance extended by China, Saudi Arabia and

the UAE during the difficult times. He however said we have to do introspection to put the country in the right direction.

I said yesterday that we were ahead of them in textile sector till the decade of 80 and 90. The value of our rupee was higher than their currency. There is no competition today. This is such troublesome that I can not sleep the whole night.

No better example can be found than Germany and Japan which were destroyed by powerful bombs but today these countries stand among the developed countries of the world.



Ms. Marriyum Aurangzeb, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting inaugurating a podcast studio titled "Planet FM 87.6" at Radio Pakistan, Islamabad.

Info Minister lauds initiatives taken to revive Radio Pakistan, making it financially viable

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, during a visit to Radio Pakistan Islamabad, has appreciated recent initiatives taken to revive the national broadcaster and make it financially viable.

Talking to media at the National Broadcasting House, Islamabad on Wednesday evening, she said the business plan under the "Stand-Up Radio Pakistan" project was completed in a short span of 14 months. She said a financially viable Radio Pakistan will ensure a significant improvement in its content, quality of transmission as well as welfare of the staff.

Highlighting the initiatives taken to bring diversity in national broadcaster's transmiss-

sions, the Minister said a dedicated sports channel is airing youth oriented content round the clock to promote healthy activities amongst the masses. Similarly, exclusive channel of regional languages is playing an important role to promote cultural and linguistic diversity of the country. She commended Radio Pakistan for establishing state of the art Technology platform to create awareness among people about latest and modern tools and gadgets to make a difference in the society. She said Radio Pakistan has now become a visual medium as well for which a Drama Studio Reels has been launched to provide quality entertainment to the viewers. She said it will encourage and facilitate young artists to demonstrate their skills

through creativity.

Marriyum Aurangzeb expressed her delight to see the Podcast studio of Radio Pakistan from where interviews of experts, leading personalities of different walks of life are being aired. She also mentioned that a music channel of Radio Pakistan is enthralling its listeners 24/7. Besides, World Service is broadcasting programmes for overseas Pakistanis. She said national news studio is airing credible news in an efficient and world class manner.

The Minister said Saut-ul-Quran channel of Radio Pakistan has the biggest listenership and is widely appreciated in the country and abroad amongst the Muslim population. She said its transmission has been completely digitized to ensure quality of voice.

Pakistan receives \$1 b from UAE

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Wednesday said that the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) has received a deposit of \$1 billion from the United Arab Emirates, which would further strengthen and improve the foreign exchange reserves of the country.

Addressing a press conference he said that SBP as Federal Reserve Bank has also confirmed and said that an amount of \$1 billion had been received from the brotherly United Arab Emirates as this inflow would further increase foreign exchange reserves, held by the SBP.

PTI terminates basic membership of Khattak

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf has issued a notice of Termination of Basic Membership of Parvez Khattak from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf. According to notification with reference to the show cause notice served to Parvez Khattak, Ex-Provincial President, KPK, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf on 21st June, 2023, a satisfactory reply within the given stipulated time regarding contacting party members and inciting them to leave the party was not received.

UN passes Pakistan-led motion on religious hatred

WASHINGTON (Online): The United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council on Wednesday approved a disputed resolution on religious hatred in the wake of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

Last month, a man desecrated the Holy Quran in Sweden's capital Stockholm, resulting in strong condemnation from several Muslim states, including Pakistan, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the European Union, Pope Francis and the Swedish government among others.

The resolution, introduced by Pakistan on behalf of the 57-nation OIC, calls for the UN rights chief to publish a report on religious hatred and for states to re-

view their laws and plug gaps that may "impede the prevention and prosecution of acts and advocacy of religious hatred".

It was strongly opposed by the United States and the European Union, who say it conflicts with their view on human rights and freedom of expression.

While condemning the desecration of the Holy Quran, they argued the OIC initiative was designed to safeguard religious symbols rather than human rights. An Iraqi immigrant to Sweden desecrated the Holy Quran outside a Stockholm mosque last month, sparking outrage across the Muslim world and demands by Muslim states for action.

All have seen the result of giving country in the hands of a botcher: Nawaz

JEDDAH (Online): PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif has said all have seen the result of giving the country in the hands of a botcher.

"All have seen the result of giving the country in the hands of a botcher. He destroyed every thing. After coming to power again we will start the journey of development from where we had left. The task has been assigned to Maryam Nawaz to make PML-N active and dynamic all over the country,

he said this while talking to PML-N Saudi Arabia office bearers.

We are determined to put the country on path to development and prosperity. All saw the result of giving the country in the hands of a botcher. This botcher annihilated every institution and department. Only this man is behind the difficulties country is facing now. Ruling coalition propped up the economy despite the difficulties, he remarked.

US hails staff-level Pakistan's pact with IMF, vows to standby Islamabad

WASHINGTON (APP): The United States Tuesday welcomed the staff-level agreement between Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) designed to stabilize the South Asian country's economy from recent external shocks, saying Washington would continue to support Islamabad through the process.

"Our support for the country's economic success is unwavering," State Department Spokesperson Mathew Miller said when asked at his daily press briefing whether the U.S. had played a key role in

securing the \$3 billion IMF package for Pakistan.

"We will continue to engage with Pakistan through technical engagements and continue to strengthen our trade and investment ties, all of which are priorities for our bilateral relationship," Miller told the correspondent of a private Pakistani television channel.

"We believe Pakistan has a lot of hard work ahead to be on a long-term sustainable path to economic recovery and prosperity but we will continue to stand by them through that process," he added.



MULTAN: Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Abdul Khabir Azad addressing Ethihad Bainul Muslimeen Seminar.

Martyred troops are nation's pride: PM Nine soldiers martyred, five terrorists killed in Zhob Garrison attack

ZHOB (INP): At least nine security personnel were martyred by terrorists on Wednesday in an early morning attack on the Zhob Garrison in northern Balochistan, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said.

The military's media wing had earlier put the death toll to four, stating that five soldiers were critically injured. Later in the evening, it said that the injured soldiers succumbed to their wounds and embraced martyrdom.

"Initial attempt of terrorists to sneak into the facility was checked by soldiers on duty," the ISPR said, adding that the terrorists were soon after cornered in a small area near the boundary following a heavy exchange of fire.

"In total, five terrorists have been sent to hell during the operation," the

ISPR said, adding that the clearance operation was successfully completed.

"Security forces and the nation remain resilient and determined to thwart all such dastardly attempts of the enemy aimed at destroying peace of Balochistan and Pakistan."

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday terming martyred soldiers the "pride of the nation" said their invaluable sacrifices of lives could never be forgotten.

The prime minister expressed these remarks in a statement issued after four soldiers of the Pakistan army lost their lives in a terrorist attack in the Zhob garrison of Balochistan.

He paid tribute to the martyred soldiers and said that their sacrifice for the homeland would be remem-

bered forever. Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah on Wednesday strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Zhob Cantt.

Sanaullah in a news statement said the courageous personnel of the security forces sacrificed their lives to prevent a major catastrophe and successfully sent three terrorists to their ultimate fate.

"I pray for the elevation of the security personnel who embraced martyrdom," stated the Interior Minister.

"We will not rest until terrorism is completely eradicated," he added.

The interior minister said that the sacrifices of our forces will forever be remembered in history.

He said the entire nation stands in solidarity with the families of the martyrs and the injured.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with Chief of the Naval Staff Pakistan Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi at CM House.

Instead of human rights speech, Israel give account of atrocities on Palestinian: Khurram Dastgir

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal minister of energy Khurram Dastgir said instead of human right speeches to Pakistan Israel must give account of atrocities on armless Muslims of Palestine.

On Wednesday he said on one side he (Israel) is crying on human right violation in Pakistan and on the other side he is firing bullets and bombs on armless peoples of Palestinians.

He said question is that why was this question not made earlier from Israel, why now? We haven't recognized Israel in solidarity with Palestinian brothers and sisters.

Khurram Dastgir said

the voice rose in Assembly of government became in power in 2018 to recognize Israel. This voice was raised by the political party who attacked state of Pakistan on May 09.

Federal minister said this question is also their why the US congress members are interfering in Pakistan after the incident of May 09.

Talking to media Khurram Dastgir said Israel must give account of atrocities on Palestine before giving speech to Pakistan on human rights. Israel must not give speech to Pakistan on human rights in the time when he is making the atrocities on Palestinian peoples.



PESHAWAR: Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins meeting with Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Kurram clashes

Considering the troubled history of sectarian tensions in KP's Kurram tribal district, and the impact violence in the region can have on communal relations in the rest of the country, the authorities need to act with alacrity as soon as disturbances emerge.

Unfortunately, the district has again witnessed bloodshed, with several deaths and injuries reported after a tribal clash erupted on Friday — apparently, the result of a quarrel between the residents of two settlements over a disputed parcel of land in upper Kurram. The violence has continued since. In fact, there are numerous land disputes — some dating to the pre-partition era — among tribes in the district. Worryingly, tribal and communal disputes often take on a sectarian colour in Kurram.

Even more distressing are the claims of some local residents that terrorists of two banned groups, the TTP and Lashkar-i-Jhangvi, have been involved in the latest episode of bloodletting.

The authorities face two major challenges in the current situation: to end the violence and prevent land disputes from descending into bloodshed, and to ensure that sectarian narratives, amplified by social media, do not inflame the situation, especially as Muharram approaches.

Firstly, Kurram itself must be pacified and calm restored, as a humanitarian situation is developing, with people facing shortages of food, fuel and medicine due to the clashes. This is the second major outbreak of tribal/sectarian violence this year; earlier in May, the region experienced a bout of bloodshed as several people, including teachers, were killed in targeted attacks. That episode was also linked to land disputes. After calm returns, the land commission formed by the KP government should address the land disputes that are at the heart of these clashes judiciously, while the parties involved must abide by their commitments, with violators penalised by the state.

Secondly, the situation requires the security forces to keep a vigilant eye on the movement of banned sectarian militants in this sensitive region. If these elements are not checked, they can further endanger Kurram's fragile communal peace. With Muharram just a week away, the state as well as the clergy need to put in extra effort to prevent the Kurram clashes from being exploited by vested interests that want to fan sectarian hatred across the country. In particular, social media accounts that promote violence and hatred, and spread unfounded rumours likely to fuel violence in society, should be monitored. Secondly, clergymen from both sects need to use the pulpit to defuse tensions, instead of fanning the flames.

Kurram and its surrounding areas have been witnessing a tense calm for the last decade or so after several years of bloodshed. The local people should not be abandoned again by the state, left to deal with the escalating sectarian violence on their own.

Give peace a chance



Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Lack of awareness within civil society, weak political manifestation, institutional gaps, misconceptions, and over-expectations from peace talks and amnesty schemes have cast a shadow over a pragmatic approach to dealing with militants and insurgents. Consequently, peace has remained elusive. What lessons have been learned from this process?

Before peace talks and the announcement of any amnesty scheme, the delicate issue of dealing with militancy needs extensive discussion. Can any state afford a prolonged spell of militancy? For sustainable peace, what are the options: persistent efforts to counter terrorism, killing terrorists, countering ideologies, or increasing investments in diplomacy? There is also a need to understand how media speculation can negatively impact the process. It must be asked: how can we develop political and societal consensus regarding issues related to the peace process, including resettlement? How can we identify and overcome any irritants?

During the pre-negotiations phase, the names and other details of militants must be collected, and a screening committee should be entrusted with scrutiny of the process. The benefits of amnesty schemes should not be used to recycle surrendered militants. Those who surrender should go through a rigorous re-training cycle. Eligible persons should be entitled to a fixed monthly stipend and an initial grant that will

only be paid out on the successful completion of training.

Amnesties are used when there is no resolution to an ongoing conflict in sight. To deal with rebels, Uganda tried both kinetic and non-kinetic options. Eventually, in 1999, it opted for peaceful solutions and announced a general amnesty that resulted in the 'Amnesty Act of 2000'. It provided blanket amnesty for all Ugandans engaged in armed rebellion.

To oversee the implementation, a seven-member Amnesty Commission (AC) was established, funded by the Ugandan government and the World Bank's Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Programme. The Amnesty Act used the term 'reporter' to refer to individuals who had taken steps to secure amnesty. At the time of the establishment of the commission, the approximate number of potential 'reporters' was estimated at 50,000. By the end of 2008, a total of 22,995 people had 'reported' under the scheme.

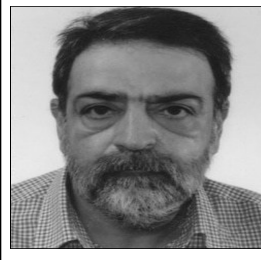
Under the Ugandan amnesty scheme, a reporter was not to be prosecuted for their past crimes. They were given the option of reporting to the police, army, local council, a magistrate, or a religious leader. A reporter who faced insurgency charges had to declare to a judge, a prison officer, or a magistrate that they had surrendered and desired amnesty. They also had to surrender their weapons. Reporters residing outside Uganda were provided the option of reporting to a Ugandan diplomatic mission. After the completion of the process, the reporters were given amnesty certificates. The military and police ensured their security. To ensure their well-being, the government also sought assistance from NGOs like Give Me a Chance, which helped

the AC repatriate, rehabilitate, and reintegrate former militants. Unicef also helped to resettle child soldiers. The armed conflict between militants and the military in Nigeria's Niger Delta continued for two decades, defying all peace efforts. To mitigate conflict in the oil-rich region, the Presidential Amnesty Programme was introduced in 2009. PAP was a special intervention from the federal government to disarm, demobilise, and reintegrate former agitators. The PAP followed a multipronged model: robust stakeholder engagement, strategic and targeted communication, community outreach, peace building, and reconciliation.

In our case, amnesty schemes may be classified differently for 'home-based militants' and 'foreign-based militants'. In 2015, the Balochistan government announced a general amnesty for those who abandoned violence. Point 17 of Pakistan's National Action Plan emphasises the need to fully empower the Balochistan government for political reconciliation with complete ownership by all stakeholders. The idea needs to be magnified, so other areas can also be included in such endeavours.

Since militants are far away from the brighter aspects of human life, bringing them closer to the pragmatic aspects of life is inevitable. Militants need to be convinced that death and destruction are not the way to achieve their ideals. However, general amnesty and offering financial incentives may not prove enough in the absence of skills training and employment opportunities, so picking up a gun may be the only option left for militants trying to reintegrate. Denying such an option requires collective will and response. Let's give peace a chance. -- Courtesy Dawn

Jenin revisited



Mahir Ali

Last week's Israeli 'special military operation' in the West Bank town of Jenin has been compared, in terms of its intensity, to a 2002 assault during the second Palestinian intifada. Smaller-scale incursions, however, have become almost a nightly occurrence in what is invariably described as a hotbed of militancy.

The toddlers who witnessed the depredations of 2002 and survived the sporadic bouts of lethal repression in their formative years are now in their 20s. The despair they have experienced throughout their lives has only deepened over the years. Should anyone be surprised that some of them see little choice other than to join the armed resistance?

Many of the young fighters are independent of the usual outfits such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad or the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, choosing to resist violence with violence simply because they see no alternative. Even under less extremist regimes, Israeli intent has never seriously shifted from the idea of indefinite occupation. The Palestinian Authority (PA) introduced after the Oslo Accords 30 years ago was always intended to serve as little more than a collaborationist entity.

Briefly optimistic about the possibilities held out by the Oslo settlement, Edward Said rapidly became disillusioned, pointing out that it would turn out to be little more than a reflection of the Nazi-backed Vichy regime in wartime France, increasing the likelihood of militancy, which would

serve as an excuse for re-enforced repression.

There are parts of Jenin where the PA dare not venture, and some Western commentators have suggested Israel's hand is forced because of the authority's inability to subdue the resistance. More pertinently, in Palestinian eyes its weakness stems from its chronic inability to resist the increasingly brutal reality of the occupation. Younger Palestinians in particular hold it in contempt for its designated role as handmaiden to Shin Bet and the Israeli Defence Forces.

The disillusionment has intensified in the wake of what is viewed as the most extremist Israeli government, whose leading ministers proclaim their desire to annex "Judea and Samaria" by expelling all Palestinians, exterminating as many as necessary. Illegal West Bank settlements are growing by leaps and bounds, with the settlers routinely rampaging through Palestinian villages.

They have been egged on by the likes of ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich neither of whom bothers to disguise his fascist tendencies. That fits into an Israeli pattern whereby, before and during the Nakba of 75 years ago, some of the leading Zionists were perfectly comfortable with invoking the Nazi practices they had recently survived. The security establishment has acknowledged some of the settlers' crimes as indistinguishable from terrorism, and even Netanyahu has urged restraint — although the implication often seems to be: it's not a good look, let us do it for you.

Perhaps they worry too much. The 'international community' seems to be focused on Russia/Ukraine and China/Taiwan. Serial violations of the 'rules-based order' by Israel barely cause a ripple, every now and then

occasioning an expression of concern or a mild reprimand, but never any repercussions. There isn't the smallest sign of the kind of international pressure that persuaded South Africa to dispense with apartheid.

Israeli apartheid is barely acknowledged by any state, even though the designation is commonplace among human rights organisations and growing segments of the Western intelligentsia, and to call it out as a terrorist state would immediately — and absurdly — be termed anti-Semitic. Back in May, writing in Haaretz, Israeli satirist B. Michael asked a series of crucial questions about his country: "What's the difference between a terrorist who murders a mother with her two daughters, and a state that murders — in a single night — a mother and her four-year-old daughter, parents and their son, a 12-year-old girl and her eight-year-old brother, and another two sisters who are neighbours?"

"What exactly is the difference between them? And why is the murderer a terrorist, and not the state? Where does it say that a state can't be a terrorist? And how many innocent people is a state allowed to kill before being called a terrorist state? And how many children?"

The answer, as someone said, is blowing in the wind. And who can say how many times Jenin will again be violated before those who matter open their ears, let alone heed Israeli historian Ilan Pappé's comment in April, in the context of the demonstrations against the Netanyahu regime's tinkering with the judiciary, that "the current protest wave has highlighted Israel's fundamental paradox: it cannot be both democratic and Jewish. It will either be a racist Jewish state, or a democratic one for all its citizens. There is no middle ground." -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM stresses balance in pricing of life saving drugs & pharma sector growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday stressed the formulation of a balanced strategy that could lower the pricing formula of life-saving drugs and also ensure growth of the country's pharmaceutical industry.

Addressing the Pharma Export Summit and Awards (PESA-2023), he said the government was committed to protecting the poor on one hand besides helping the pharmaceutical sector to thrive.

The event organized by Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PPMA) gathered corporate heads of national and multinational pharmaceutical companies and pharma experts.

The prime minister said the country's pharmaceutical industry was playing an important role in meeting the demands of medicine. He paid tributes to the companies for propelling the export of medicines. Because of the steep rise in the cost of raw materials, he said, the prices of medicine witnessed an upsurge.

He, however, stressed that the situation must not lead to conflict with the production of life-saving drugs. PM Sharif constituted a committee to resolve the issues and demands of the pharma industry within two weeks.

He hoped that before the completion of the constitutional term of incumbent government, the matters pertaining to the pharma industry would be resolved amicably.

The prime minister expressed confidence that the board meeting of the International Monetary Fund this evening would help open more Letters of Credit (LCs) relating to pharma products.

Region GSMA, Saira Faisal, Country Lead and Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy APAC GSMA who participated virtually to emphasize the importance of this partnership.

The highlight of this partnership is the launch of Shariah-compliant smartphone installment plans, which are tailored specifically for Telenor's vast customer base in Pakistan.

Telenor Pakistan partners with Kistpay to scale smartphone financing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Telenor Pakistan has entered into a partnership with Kistpay, Pakistan's leading smartphone financing platform, to bring affordable smartphone financing solutions to customers at unprecedented scale. A signing ceremony in this regard took place which was attended by Irfan Wahab Khan, CEO Telenor Pakistan, Asif Jafri, CEO Kistpay, Julian Gorman, Head of APAC

RCCI says: Religious tourism can generate millions of foreign exchange

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Punjab have agreed to put joint efforts to promote religious tourism to earn foreign exchange. These views were expressed by Acting President RCCI Faisal Shahzad in a meeting with Secretary Evacuee Trust Property Board (ETPB) Punjab Rana Muhammad Arif at the chamber house.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes awards among the highest exporters of Pharmaceutical Industry in Pakistan.

Speakers term Islamic finance system as solution to economic problems of country

KARACHI (APP): Religious scholars and experts on the economy termed the Islamic financial system as a solution to the economic problems of Pakistan and stressed the need for legislation and academic research on conversion of the traditional financial system into an interest-free economy.

The thoughts were expressed in a seminar on Islamic Finance organised by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) here on Wednesday. Chairman

Shariah Advisory Committee State Bank of Pakistan, Mufti Dr Irshad Ahmed Aijaz, said that the remarkable success and exponential growth of Islamic financial system around the world has negated the perception that financial systems could not work without interest.

The decision of the Federal Shariat Court on interest was a significant decision that provide answers to all questions on the subject, he said adding that share of Islamic banking in the overall banking

sector has surpassed 20% while Pakistan would be the first country in the world heading to conversion of financial system on such a large scale.

All the stakeholders in Pakistan including the bankers and business community have a consensus over conversion to an Islamic financial system, he said and stressed the need for legislation and academic research on the subject along with coordination among stakeholders and unanimity of efforts for the purpose.

KP CM's aide visit KPRA, stressed on increase of tax base

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Finance and Energy and Power, Himayatullah Khan visited the headquarters of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Revenue Authority (KPRA) here on Wednesday. He was accompanied by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary Finance, Muhammad Ayaz. Director General KPRA, Shah Mahmood Khan gave them a detailed presentation on the structure, working, and revenue achievements

of KPRA with proposed way forward.

The DG KPRA informed that KPRA has contributed 71 percent of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's own source tax-revenue in the financial year 2022-23. Since 2017 KPRA's revenue collected has increased by 180 percent which speaks for the performance and dedication of the KPRA team. The Director General KPRA informed the Advisor on Finance and Energy and Power about the pending amounts of KPRA with FBR.

PPMA delegation calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PPMA) Wednesday called on the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad and discussed issues related to sale tax regime governing the pharma sector. The delegation was led by Chairman PPMA Syed Farooq Bukhari including members as well as ex-Chairman of the Association, said a press release. The meeting was also attended by Member IR-Policy FBR Afaq Ahmad Qureshi.

Emerging differences among PDM parties not in favour of country: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the emerging differences among the PDM parties are not in favour of country as they will create instability in the country.

In a statement issued here on Wednesday, he said that political parties included in the coalition government have differences over the date of elections and the issue of power sharing, as a result of which political instability may increase, which worries the business community.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan has narrowly avoided bankruptcy and the fear of default has not ended, therefore, the need for economic reforms is becoming more and more serious.

Politicians should resolve their internal differences and not bring them to public forums so that investors are not harassed, he stressed.

The business leader said that the news of differences in the ruling coalition is everywhere, and the main reason for these differences is that different parties demand more than their right and try to deprive others of their legitimate rights.



QUETTA: Shopkeeper setting up frames of Kulfi to attract customers at Mission Road.

NA body told Poultry traders, importers' hullabaloo on GMOs import halt exploitative

ISLAMABAD (APP): The poultry traders and importers of Soybean seeds have created an exploitative hullabaloo at the national level pertaining to halt of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) seeds as the importers were illicitly importing the soybean seeds without meeting the legal formalities and protocols.

Additional Secretary Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Musadik Ahmed Malik on Wednesday informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change

and Environmental Coordination presided by MNA Nuzhat Pathan that in 1995 GMOs were introduced to create pest and weather resistant crops.

The chairperson raised the query before the Ministry of Climate Change pertaining to the alleged deliberate halt of soybean seeds causing economic damage to the poultry industry and increase in the price of broiler chicken.

Setting the historical context, he said there were two lobbies one opposing and the other supporting the GMOs.



KARACHI: Chairman, Shariah Advisory Committee State Bank of Pakistan, Mufti Dr Irshad Ahmed Aijaz, addressing a seminar on Islamic Finance organized by FPCCI at Federation House.

CM visits Jhang, Kasur to check flood situation

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday visited various areas of districts Jhang and Kasur to take stock of the flood situation. During his visit to River Chenab in Jhang, the CM reviewed the water situation in Kharor Baqir, other areas and inspected deluged villages.

He met with residents of the inundated village and inquired about their problems, and directed the departments concerned for arranging access to the inundated villages and ordered to monitor 24/7 water situation in the river, besides expediting relief activities there to vacate the localities at the river, according to CM's spokesman here.

The Secretary Irrigation and Commissioner Faisalabad Division briefed the CM about relief activities, arrangements being made for relief and medical facilities and about the entry and exit of water situation in the River Chenab. They said that Irrigation Department, PDMA (Provincial Disaster Management Authority) and Rescue 1122 had been alerted to cope up with any untoward situation.

Later talking to media on this occasion, the CM said that water in 40 villages has entered in bed of River Chenab and affected 48,000 people. Relief and medical camps have been established to provide relief to the affected persons. Evacuation of localities in the river bed was essential for their protection, he added.

Naqvi said, "It is our utmost endeavour that no human loss occurs. Water up to four feet is present in a few villages. There is a lower level flood at the place of Kharor Baqir in River Chenab."

Mohsin Naqvi disclosed that snake bite treatment vaccines and other essential medicines were made available in the medical camps. He said that he had also sought a report from Commissioner Faisalabad about flood in River Chenab.



KARACHI: Former Sindh Governor Muhammad Zubair calls on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Murtaza Abbasi says: Assemblies to be dissolved after allies' consultation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi on Wednesday said that the dissolution of the assemblies including the National, Sindh, and Baluchistan assembly would be decided in consultation with the allies.

Talking to journalists at Commissioner's office after listening to the complaints of people in an open court, he said that Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz's (PML-N) stance was clear on the issue of the conclusion of the constitutional assemblies term, and election to be held in time. Abbasi said that consultations were underway in the party over the return of Nawaz Sharif, who will lead the election campaign. Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs said that the government's policy about Israel had not been changed and there was no U-turn on the issue of relations with Israel.

Answering a query, he said that every political party has its opinion according to the party policy, adding Chairman PTI was responsible for his politics and policy. "A furious leader of a political party is weakening the democratic system," Chairman PTI may declare India as his benefactor tomorrow, and "We should not think so much about him," he added.

Murtaza Abbasi added that the country was in a better situation when the government was taken away from PML-N in 2018 and the election was rigged.

He said that the PML-N government had ended inflation, terrorism, and energy crises during his five-year government. "We are facing economic difficulties and returned to IMF for loans due to policies of the previous government, he said adding the higher cost of electricity was being charged due to the IMF agreement. He said that Imran Khan's best effort was to make the country default and the country had reached this point, but the coalition government saved the country from default with the help of friendly countries.

Minister express concern over unavailability of funds in Info department

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Auqaf, Hajj, Religious and Minority Affairs Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel expressed concern over financial difficulties faced by the information department and said the matter would be brought to the notice of the chief minister. He expressed these views during his visit to the KP Information department. Director General Information Department Basir Ali Rehman, Director Public Relations Liaquat Amin, Director Administration Saleem Khan and other officers were also present.

The caretaker provincial minister inspected various sections of the information department and reviewed the records and performance of various sections. He also presided over a meeting of Public Relations Officers (PROs) and directed them to highlight the performance of the caretaker provincial government. During the visit, the provincial minister was also informed about problems faced by the department due to the unavailability.



HYDERABAD: Railway staffers of Anti-Encroachment Cell demolishing encroachments at Makki Shah area.

Dr Jamal Nasir says: Provision of medical facilities to health dept shows countries' confidence

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir Wednesday said that funding provided by the developed countries' institutions for increasing medical facilities in primary and rural health centres was an expression of confidence in the transparency and efficiency of the Punjab government.

He said this while inaugurating the completion of renovation work of selected rooms in the Rural Health Center of Khayaban Sirsryed by the Norwegian government here.

Under this project, besides the renovation of the labour room, the family planning room and lady health visitor's rooms were also completed while required medical equipment had also been provided.

He informed that the government institutions of the US, Norway and Denmark had provided support to the public health sector of Punjab, adding comprehensive measures were also being taken to improve discipline and administrative affairs. Dr Jamal said that the pilot project of the hepatitis screening campaign was underway in eleven high-risk Union Councils of Rawalpindi with the support of the US Task Force for Global Health organization.

1400 Afghan children enrolled in NFE schools at refugee camps

PESHAWAR (APP): Around 1400 non-school-going Afghan children involved in child labour are enrolled in Non-Formal Education (NFE) schools in refugee schools for equipping them with the treasure of education.

The initiative was taken by Helvetas Pakistan, a Swiss-based development organization, through its humanitarian response to address the immediate life needs of vulnerable Afghan communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Initially, we have confined our focus to three districts of KP including Peshawar, Charsadda and Mardan, informed Irshad Ahmad, an official of Helvetas Pakistan.

Talking to APP, Irshad said among these 1400 Afghan children around 25 were disabled including 13 girls and 12 boys.

DIG Hyderabad announces interview schedule

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Inspector General of Police Hyderabad Range Syed Pir Muhammad Shah who is also the Chairman Selection/Recruitment Committee has announced schedule of interviews of the candidates for their appointment to different posts from BPS-1 to 4 in Hyderabad Range Police. According to announcement here on Wednesday, the interviews of the candidates will be conducted at Police Headquarters Hyderabad on July 15 and 16, 2023 from 9 a.m.

MUET announces interviews for candidates' admission in new academic year

HYDERABAD (APP): The Director Admissions, Mehran University of Engineering and Technology Jamshoro Wednesday announced the schedule of interviews of all those successful candidates who appeared in computerized admission test for admission in various disciplines in new academic year in MUET and SZAB Campus Khairpur Mirs.

According to the schedule posted on the varsity's official website, the district-wise interviews will be conducted from July 14, 2023 at the central auditorium of the university.

The candidates who have been called for interviews have been advised to bring original documents and admission fees along with them.

Police recover TikTokers from Katcha area

SUKKUR (APP): Kashmir-Kandhkot Police on Wednesday claimed to have recovered three TikTok dancing girls from the Katcha area of Garhi Tegho, district Kashmir-Kandhkot.

According to SSP Kashmir-Kandhkot Irfan Samo, during an operation by the Police in Garhi Tegho in the Katcha area, the kidnappers after freeing three dancer girls managed to escape.



LAHORE: Police personnel stand guard during the protest of Government Employees of Punjab outside Civil Secretariat in Provincial Capital.

International News

North Korea launches ICBM after threatening U.S. over alleged spy flights

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea launched a suspected inter-continental ballistic missile Wednesday, its neighbors said, two days after it threatened the U.S. over what it said were spy plane incursions into its airspace.

The South Korean military confirmed that North Korea had launched a suspected long-range ballistic missile toward the east from the outskirts of Pyongyang, the North Korean capital, around 10 a.m. Wednesday (9 p.m. Tuesday ET). It said that surveillance had been strengthened and that it was maintaining military preparedness in close cooperation with the U.S.

Japanese government spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno said that while details were still being analyzed, the missile was estimated to have flown for 74 minutes before it fell into the Sea of Japan about 155 miles west of Okushiri Island in Hokkaido around 11:13 a.m. The missile, which was launched at a lofted trajectory, was estimated to have traveled 620 miles and reached a maximum altitude of about 3,725 miles. Matsuno said that it landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone and that there were no reports of damage in the area.



Philippine's Foreign Secretary Enrique Manalo, Singapore's Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and Thailand's Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai attend the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Foreign Ministers' Interface With ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights Representatives as the seat reserved for Myanmar is left unoccupied at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia.

South Korea, Japan leaders to meet; Fukushima radioactive water, North Korea missile launch focus

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol is set to meet Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida on Wednesday on the sidelines of a NATO summit, with the release of radioactive water from the Fukushima nuclear plant and North Korea expected on the agenda. Japan plans to soon start releasing more than a million tons of treated radioactive water from its tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant, a move which has stirred anger and concern among South Koreans.

After a two-year review, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said last week Japan's plans were consistent with global safety standards and that they would have a "negligible radiological impact to people and the environment".

A South Korean presidential official has said the Fukushima water discharge plan could be discussed at the meeting. South Korea's government said on Friday it respected the IAEA's report and that its own analysis had found the release will not have "any meaningful impact" on its waters.

Thai diplomat meets with Suu Kyi in detention in Myanmar and says she wants to join talks on crisis

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Thailand's top diplomat said Wednesday that he met ousted Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi in detention over the weekend and she conveyed her openness to engage in talks to resolve the crisis in her strife-torn nation.

Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai is the only government official outside of Myanmar to have met Suu Kyi since she was detained with other officials when the army seized power from her elected government on Feb. 1, 2021.

He told his counterparts in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, who are meeting in Indonesia's capital, that Suu Kyi was in good health when he met with her Sunday. "She encourages dialogue," Don told reporters in Jakarta when asked what message Suu Kyi conveyed to him. "Obviously we're trying to find a way to settle with Myanmar."

The military takeover and the crackdown on the armed resistance to it plunged the country into deadly chaos. Western and European governments, including the United States, have imposed sanctions on Myanmar's military government and demanded the immediate release of Suu Kyi and other political detainees.

Migrants found dead near Tunisia's border with Algeria

Monitoring Desk
TUNIS: The bodies of two migrants have been found in a desert region near Tunisia's border with Algeria, a judicial official and a witness said on Tuesday.

Hundreds of migrants from sub-Saharan countries have fled or been forced out of Tunisia's port city of Sfax after racial tensions flared following the July 3 killing of a Tunisian man in an altercation between locals and migrants.

Many have been left to fend for themselves in harsh conditions in remote desert areas near Tunisia's borders with Algeria and with Libya.

Iran's president begins a rare visit to Africa 'to promote economic diplomacy'

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Iran's president has begun a rare visit to Africa as the country, which is under heavy U.S. economic sanctions, seeks to deepen partnerships around the world.

President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Kenya on Wednesday is the first to the African continent by an Iranian leader in more than a decade. He is also expected to visit Uganda and Zimbabwe and meet with the presidents there.

Africa is a "continent of opportunities" and a great platform for Iranian products, Raisi told journalists in a briefing. He didn't take questions. "None of us is satisfied with the current volume of trade," he said. Iran's leader specifically mentioned Africa's mineral resources and Iran's petrochemical experience, but the five memoranda of understanding signed on Wednesday by the Islamic Republic and Kenya appeared not to address either one. Instead, they addressed information, communication and technology; fisheries; animal health and livestock production and investment promotion. Kenyan President William Ruto called Iran a "critical strategic partner" and "global innovation powerhouse."

He expressed interest in expanding Kenya's agricultural exports to Iran and Central Asia well beyond tea.

Iran also intends to set up a manufacturing plant for Iranian vehicles in Kenya's port city of Mombasa, Ruto said.



Move Forward Party leader Pita Limjaroenrat greets supporters during a rally to thank voters ahead of the vote for a new prime minister, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Germany tells UN: Nord Stream inquiry found subsea explosive traces on yacht

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Germany found traces of subsea explosives in samples taken from a yacht that it suspects "may have been used to transport the explosives" to blow up the Nord Stream gas pipelines, it told the U.N. Security Council in a letter with Sweden and Denmark. A series of unexplained explosions hit the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines connecting Russia and Germany under the Baltic Sea last September in the exclusive economic zones of Germany, Sweden and Denmark.

The trio are each conducting separate investigations and sent an update - seen by Reuters - ahead of a meeting of the 15-member Security Council on Tuesday called by Russia, which has complained that it has not been kept informed about the probes.

"None of the investigations has been concluded and at this point, it is still not possible to say when they will be concluded. The nature of the acts of sabotage is unprecedented and the investigations are complex," the three wrote in a joint letter, dated Monday.



People walk outside the Bank of England in the City of London financial district in London, Britain.

Russia's Medvedev: NATO's military aid to Ukraine brings World War Three closer

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy secretary of Russia's powerful Security Council chaired by President Vladimir Putin, said late on Tuesday that the increase in military assistance to Ukraine by the NATO alliance brings World War Three closer.

Commenting on the first day of the summit of the U.S.-led alliance in Lithuania, where a number of countries pledged more weaponry and financial support, Medvedev said the aid would not deter Russia from achieving its goals in Ukraine.

"The completely crazy West could not come up with anything else... In fact, it's a dead end. World War Three is getting closer," Medvedev wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

UK jobless rate climbs

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: UK unemployment rose back to four per cent in the three months to the end of May, official data showed Tuesday, as the economy struggles with stubbornly high inflation. The unemployment rate increased from 3.8pc in the three months to the end of April, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement, dashing expectations for no change. The rate was back at 4pc for the first time since the start of 2022. Despite the rise, finance minister Jeremy Hunt said Britain's "jobs market is strong."

PM vows to utilize all resources for country's development

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday pledged to the nation that under the leadership of its Quaid Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, if given the mandate in next general elections, would utilize all available resources to bring the country out of economic crisis and take it to the zenith of development and prosperity.

State of the art technology would be introduced for development in various sectors, including agriculture, energy and industries, he said addressing the foundation stone laying ceremony of a flyover here at Shaheen Chowk on Ninth Avenue.

The prime minister said the coalition government had launched a series of development projects in the Federal Capital to provide relief to its residents.

The Capital's most important project, he said, was the Bahara Kahu flyover that had almost been completed and its inauguration was likely by the

ment. He wanted the country to default, but with the blessings of Almighty and efforts of the coalition government, such an eventuality was averted, the prime minister added.

Pm Shehbaz said not a single corruption scandal had been reported during the current government's tenure of over one year, rather billions of rupees were saved by reaching big deals such as import of wheat and the agreement of a nuclear power project with China.

The cost of the nuclear power project remained the same as agreed with the then prime minister Nawaz Sharif in 2018, besides a discount of Rs 30 billion, he added.

Speaking about the 9th May incidents, the prime minister said what the PTI (Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf) had done on that day the enemy even could not do.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also inaugurated the monsoon tree plantation campaign by planting a tree near the project.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif being briefed about Monsoon Tree Plantation Drive 2023.

Parliamentary committee on election reforms first meeting, 73 suggestions represents

ISLAMABAD (Online): Parliamentary Committee on election reforms suggested to award power of banning political party to parliament instead of Supreme Court.

Parliamentary committee of election reforms held its first meeting on Wednesday.

73 suggestions were given for election reforms.

In suggested amendments it was said the power of banning a political party should be given to parliament instead of Supreme Court. Parliament should review that party should be banned or not, said in suggestion. If parliament agrees on banning party then issue should be sent to Supreme Court.

It was also suggested to give limited time to presiding officer to prepare

election result, on delay in preparing results, presiding officer should be held answerable. Presiding officer be bound to give solid reason of delay in election result.

Presiding officer should send the signed picture of election result to Returning officer.

Provision of highest speed internet and Smartphone to presiding officer is also suggested in committee.

Polling agents also are permitted to take camera phone and CCTV camera also be installed on every booth of polling station, further suggested.

According to suggestion cameras will help in review, count and prepare election results. Camera recording proof can also be presented in case of com-

plaint. Candidate can also get polling station video after paying the price.

Increase in limit of expenditures of election for national and provincial assembly should also be increased. 4 million to 10 million expenditures suggested for national assembly and 2 to 4 million were suggested for provincial assembly elections.

Criminal action should be made against presiding and returning officers for negligence. Punishment of election staff involved in rigging should be increased from 6 months to three years, suggestion in reforms committee. Verdict on violation of code of conduct should be made in 7 days instead of 15 days. Polling staff's final list should be uploaded in election commission's website.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister, Mian Javed Latif, addressing a press conference.

PIDE launches two much-awaited reports

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE) and RASTA jointly hold a book/report launch event at the Planning Commission of Pakistan, Islamabad.

The highly anticipated gathering brought together esteemed experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to address the urgent challenges surrounding the housing sector in the country. Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Vice Chancellor of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE), addressed the audience and highlighted key challenges and opportunities in the sector.

"Power, Profit & Plans" delves into the political economy of housing in Pakistan, uncovering the unequal development patterns and socio-economic disparities prevalent in the urban landscape.

The speakers on Wednesday stressed the vital role of the local communities in the preservation, protection, and promotion of the Gandhara heritage. The Day II of Gandhara Symposium 2023 titled "Cultural Diplomacy: Reviving Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan" commenced with the Fourth Session on "Exploring the Spirit of Gandhara: Preserving the Past & Illuminating the Future."

The session was moderated by the Director of the State Bank Museum and Head of ICOM Paki-

Local communities role vital in preservation, promotion of Gandhara heritage: Speakers

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The session was moderated by the Director of the State Bank Museum and Head of ICOM Paki-

stan, Dr. Asma Ibrahim. Speakers of the session were Prof of Archaeology, University of Leicester, UK, Prof. Ruth Young; Senior Researcher, Cultural Heritage Foundation, South Korea, Yi Yun Jung; Director Minister of Buddhasana Religious And Cultural Affairs, Sri Lanka, Nishantha Pushpakumara; Prof. Dr. Hridya Ratna Bajracharya; Former VC Lumbini University, Nepal; and Prof. Xiang Debao, Prof. School of International Journalism & Communication, Beijing University.

The panelists discussed that the heritage sites

were very important for religious practices but also for building religious and national identity. They highlighted that the true spirits of Gandhara were reflected in the stone sculpture of fasting Siddharta, the academic excellence of Taxila, and the mindful, pragmatic, imaginative, creative, and bold nature of Gandhara. It was proposed to support the bringing of new digital technology and chemicals for preservation purposes. It was also underlined that Gandhara was not only a communication but an all-out campaign for modernization.

Senate body directs FIA to look into matter of bogus affiliations with hospitals

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Sub-Committee on National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination on Wednesday directed that the Federal Investigating Agency (FIA) may look into the matter of bogus affiliations with hospitals and fake certification issued to nurses by the institutions registered with the Pakistan Nursing Council. The committee directed to write letter to the ministry on their persistence negligence and unpreparedness on this crucial matter involving lives of the people of Pakistan. It was also recommended that the matter may also be marked to the Prime Minister. The committee also sought details of the new nursing council after it has been notified. The Convener while admonishing the working of the Pakistan Nursing Council termed this act as a criminal negligence. "We will not let you play with the lives of the people", the Convener Senator Rubina

Khalid grieved the menace spread by the Pakistan Nursing Council. "This is all fake, the PMC runs with speed money, buy seats and attribute thug behaviour" she said while adding that this mafia has to stop.

The meeting which was led by Senator Rubina Khalid and members Senator Jam Mehtab Hussain Dahar and Senator Dr Mehr Taj Roghani here at the Parliament House on Wednesday took serious notice of the non representation of the PNC and absence of the Secretary, or the Special Secretary and other versant officers of the ministry on the matter. The convener while expressing shock that no representatives are present to brief such a climactic agenda point, "the ministry and the PNC jointly trying to fool us she said. The committee on inquiring on the absence of Rafat Jan, chairman Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC), was informed.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveils the plaque of ground breaking of Shaheen Chowk Flyover.

USAID supports Pakistan's climate research coordination

ISLAMABAD (INP): In order to enhance the capacity building of researchers in the field of climate adaptation and resilience, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through its Higher Education System Strengthening Activity organized a workshop on climate resilience research coordination here on Wednesday. This forum aims to

advance the capability of researchers to co-produce science-to-action interdisciplinary research, education, and workforce development that improves climate adaptation and resilience in Pakistan, a news release said. The inauguration session of this 3-day workshop was chaired by Mohammed Araya, Deputy Mission Director USAID/Pakistan.

Lawyers fake degree case: SC directs VC Islamic university Bahawalpur to appear before court

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has directed Vice Chancellor (VC) Islamic University Bahawalpur to appear in person before it on next hearing besides bringing criterion of law colleges and other record along with him. The court gave these orders during the hearing of case pertaining to fake degrees of lawyers and lawyers enrolment here Wednesday. The court summoned report regarding scrutiny of faculty members from Pakistan Bar Council, report on policy regarding non practice allowance from higher education, progress report from

FIA and reports from provincial bar councils.

A 3-member bench of Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan took up the case for hearing Wednesday. The counsel for non-affiliated colleges told the court all inquiries are being held against these law colleges whose affiliation has ended. We are not being given opportunity to appear in inquiries. Permission be given to us to present record before JIT.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan remarked now it is too late. SC had already ordered that case cannot be heard again. Court will decide the allowance has been held correctly or otherwise.

Pakistan eyes to enhance pharma exports to \$5 bln by 2030: Naveed Qamar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar Wednesday stressed the need for collective efforts to boost pharmaceutical exports upto \$1 billion by 2025 and by \$5 billion by 2030 to improve exchange reserves of the country.

Realizing the export potential of the pharmaceutical sector, he said the gov-

nificantly increase Pakistan's pharmaceutical exports. The event was organized by the Pakistan Pharmaceutical Manufacturers' Association (PPMA), brought together industry leaders, experts, and stakeholders to discuss strategies for growth and innovation in the pharmaceutical sector.

While highlighting the immense opportunities for



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Syed Naveed Qamar, speaking at a podium.

IHC grants time to police for recovery of Ali Nawaz's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday granted more time to the authorities for the recovery of Umar Nawaz Awan, the brother of former lawmaker Ali Nawaz Awan.

The court instructed that the secretary of interior would appear in person before it if the missing person was not recovered by the next date. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the case regarding the recovery of Umar Nawaz Awan. Inspector General of Police Akbar Nasir Khan appeared before the bench following its directives.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany Arnold Grannas today to discuss Green Financing, General Discussion of mutual interest in Renewable Energy Investment and overall power arrangements.

ernment, pharma industry players and regulatory bodies should join together to tap the true potential of this particular sector and help economic development of the country. Speaking at the 6th Pakistan Pharma Summit and Pharma Export Summit and Awards (PESA) 2023, the minister outlined the government's plans to sig-

growth in the global pharmaceutical market, valued at \$1.4 trillion, the minister emphasized the need for Pakistan to benefit from it. Expressing gratitude to Chairman of PPMA Syed Farooq Bukhari, and Chairman of the organizing committee Dr. Kaiser Waheed, for their exceptional leadership in arranging the prestigious summit.

Delegation of Karachi Institute of Management visits Safe City Islamabad

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Karachi Institute of Management, consisting of 33rd senior Management course participants visited Safe City Islamabad to gain insights into the operations and significance of the state-of-the-art surveillance system.

the cutting-edge technologies employed by Safe City Islamabad, such as "Pukar"15, Crime Mapping, BriefCam, e-Challan, Wireless Control, Traffic Control, and FM 92.4.

He said that, the safe city Islamabad's modern technology-enabled cameras are playing a crucial role in the city's security, crime prevention and protection of citizens' lives and property. He further briefed the delegation that Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, after assuming office,

Rana Sana Ullah Khan. The centralized system of Safe City Islamabad was also linked to important commercial centers, buildings, metro-buses, toll plazas and private housing societies, including different areas of the city. Face recognition cameras have been installed at the entry and exit points of the city, which are playing an important role in identifying suspicious elements, he added.

The delegation expressed their admiration and appreciation for the re-

Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the delegation was welcomed by the CPO Traffic/ Safe City, who briefed them with a com-

prehensive understanding of the various features and utilities of the Safe City Islamabad surveillance system.

The briefing included an in-depth introduction to

extended the coverage of the Safe City Project to different areas of the city and an additionally 10% has been added in it, on the special interest and orders of the Federal Interior Minister



lentless efforts of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan and his dedicated team in establishing and maintaining Safe City Islamabad.

CDA mulling over dualisation of Pir Sohawa Road, alternate route

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) is mulling over dualisation of Pir Sohawa Road linking the scenic Margalla Hills National Park and the federal capital with the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province along with an alternate route to the Bari Imam area to cope with growing vehicular traffic.

Chairman, CDA Captain @ Noorul Amin Mengal on Wednesday informed the National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate

Change and Environmental Coordination meeting chaired by MNA Nuzhat Pathan that the rising traffic and congestion on Pir Sohawa Road on various occasions has become a nuisance for the Capital Territory Administration.

He said the Pir Sohawa Road was a mess and traffic congestion was posing a serious risk to nature and wildlife as heavy fumes of vehicular emissions were casting detrimental impacts on nature.

IRSA releases 283,200 cusecs water

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Indus River System Authority (IRSA) on Wednesday released 283,200 cusecs water from various rim stations with inflow of 325,700 cusecs.

According to the data released by IRSA, water level in the Indus River at Tarbela Dam was 1,517.31 feet, which was 119.31 feet higher than its dead level of 1,398 feet. Water inflow and outflow in the dam were recorded as 143,200 cusecs and 140,000 cusecs respectively.



ISLAMABAD: A view of the overparked car at Aabpara area, which needs the attention of concern authority.

Around 600 illegal housing societies operating in twin cities, NA body told

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Around 600 illegal housing societies have been operating in twin cities of Rawalpindi and Islamabad without any formal approval. Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Captain @ Noorul Amin Mengal told the National Assembly Standing Committee on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination.

The 35th meeting of the committee was held here at the CDA Secretariat to receive briefing on comprehensive report on implementation status of the previous recommendations of the Committee, complete details of Housing Societies in Islamabad (legal and illegal) causing severe dam-

age to the environment and sewerage system in Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT), briefing on all restaurants located on Margalla Hills causing severe damage to the environment with poor sewerage system, and especially the complete case study of Monal Restaurant with previous follow up.

Chairperson MNA, Nuzhat Pathan presided the committee and expressed her resentment over late arrival of the Chairman CDA in the Committee meeting whereas the Authority officials had informed the chair that the latter was in the Court for personal hearing.

The Chairman CDA informed that there were some 318 illegal housing societies in Rawalpindi and 150 housing societies.

192 Pakistani students get scholarships in European universities

ISLAMABAD (INP): The highest number of 192 Pakistani students have received scholarships to study in European universities under the EU's flagship Erasmus Mundus Joint Master scholarships programme including 103 men and 89 women during the current year.

The European Union Delegation to Pakistan hosted a pre-departure event to celebrate the achievement of the recipients of the scholarship, said a news release.

This is the second year in a row that Pakistan ranked top in the world for the number of scholarships awarded and remained in the lead in terms of scholarship applications.

In his welcome remarks, EU Chargé d'Affaires a.i, Thomas Seilers said, "Today we congratulate the young men and women who will embark on an educational and cultural journey through the Erasmus+ programme over the coming months."

IHC dismisses plea of police officer regarding house allotment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Wednesday dismissed the petition of a former SP of Islamabad Police Samiullah challenging cancellation of his house allotment in the capital after his posting to the other city. Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri, hearing the case, remarked that why the police officer was not vacating the house after his transfer to Quetta. If no one would leave the house after transfers then how their successor would get accommodation here, he asked?