

Independent

dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Islamabad

Vol. XIII No. 225 Reg. mails-B / ID-445 Thursday July 27, 2023, Muharramul Haram 08, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting awards to highest exporters at "KCCI Exports Trophy Awards Ceremony 2022-23".

Cabinet approves E-Safety, Personal Data Protection Bills 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The federal cabinet on Wednesday approved the E-Safety Bill 2023 (E-Safety Bill 2023) on the recommendation of the Ministry of Information Technology (IT) to protect user data and prevent illegal and illegal use of information systems.

Under this law, a comprehensive framework will be established to ensure the protection and unauthorised use of user data on all types of online services, online shopping, data provided to various companies, and social networking websites in Pakistan. After the approval of the bill, heinous crimes like online harassment, cyberbullying, and blackmail will be effectively prevented.

The meeting of the

cabinet was held here with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in chair.

The federal cabinet also approved in principle the Personal Data Protection Bill 2023 on the recommendation of the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication.

Under this bill, the empowerment will ensure the security of the user's personal information/data of various organizations and companies and prohibit sharing of the user's information/data with any company, individual, or government organization without their permission.

Under the law, the National Commission for Personal Data Protection (NCPDP) will be established which will act as a

civil court to protect the private documents/data of the users and redress the grievances of the complainants.

The federal cabinet also gave assent to the draft amendment bill of the Investment Board Ordinance 2001 for the promotion of foreign investment in Pakistan.

The amendment will empower the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) as well as lay down its basic structure, working procedures, and cooperation mechanisms with various ministries and provincial governments. After the law is passed, the SIFC will ensure the speedy implementation of foreign investment projects in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs Federal Cabinet Meeting.

Bilawal, Russian FM discuss bilateral coop. in multiple sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov of the Russian Federation on Wednesday and exchanged views on bilateral matters and growing cooperation in diverse areas.

The Foreign Minister also renewed the invitation to Foreign Minister Lavrov to visit Pakistan, a press release issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson said.

The two Foreign Ministers also discussed the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI).

Recognizing the importance of this initiative and its potential impact on

disruption of global food supply chains, causing food inflation and food-security-related challenges, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underscored the need for concerted efforts to find viable solutions that would be in particular, benefit developing countries, already under economic strain.

He expressed the hope that all parties involved in the BSGI would engage in constructive dialogue to revive the Initiative. In this regard, the Foreign Minister reiterated Pakistan's support for international efforts for restoring the deal by addressing the concerns of all sides.

SC issues written order regarding hearing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court (SC) Wednesday issued written order regarding hearing dated July 24, in a petition of chairman PTI Imran Khan against addition of his name in case pertaining murder of a lawyer in Quetta.

The court directed the petitioner to appear before the bench in personal capacity in next date of hearing.

The order said that the lawyer of the petitioner had prayed the court for adjournment in the case, which was accepted by the bench and hearing was adjourned till August 9.

The order said that the petitioner would not be arrested by the authorities in the said murder case till next date of hearing. It further said that so far no arguments had been given pertaining the merits of the case.

Parliament passes Election (Amendment) Bill 2023; empowering caretaker setup

Bill approved with majority the vote; Granting caretaker government power to take decisions regarding existing bilateral or multilateral agreements, projects

ISLAMABAD (INP): Despite opposition from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), a joint session of the Parliament approved amendments to the Election Act of 2017 on Wednesday.

The move enables the caretaker government to effectively take actions and make decisions concerning current bilateral or multilateral agreements and projects.

The Elections (Amendment) Bill 2023 aims was moved by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi.

Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, taking the floor, clarified that no new powers are being given to the caretaker government. He said that amendments in Section 230 are aimed to ensure that the decisions

already taken by the federal cabinet do not face any hiatus.

He said that the bill was presented with consensus, saying it was a sensitive bill and things would be explained about the proposed amendment in Section 230 when the provision comes up for approval.

APP adds: The Joint sitting of Parliament on Wednesday passed much-awaited amendments in the Election (Amendment) Bill, 2020 which aimed to improve the election law and ensure smooth and transparent elections.

The National Assembly passed the Election (Amendment) Bill, 2021 on June 10, 2021 but it could not sail in Senate.

A parliamentary com-

mittee under the chairmanship of Sardar Ayaz Sadiq was constituted to ensure consensus on the various amendments. This committee included parliamentarians from all political parties which had several parleys and finally agreed on amendments in the bill.

The bill was tabled in the joint session of the parliament which approved the amended bill.

It approved amendments in section 230 of the Election (Amendment) Bill, 2021 which is related to the functions of the caretaker government.

It approved a proviso after sub-section (1) and sub-section (2) of the Section 230 which states "Provided that sub-sections (1) and (2) shall not apply where the caretaker govern-

ment has to take actions or decisions regarding existing bilateral or multilateral agreements or the projects already initiated under the Public Private Partnership Authority Act, 2017 (VIII of 2017), the Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions Act, 2022 (XXX of 2022) and the Privatization Commission Ordinance, 2000 (LII of 2000)".

The Election (Amendment) Bill 2023, after being presented to and debated in the Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), has successfully secured approval with the intention of fine-tuning and making the existing Electoral laws more effective and transparent.

These amendments were carefully discussed and proposed by members of the Majlis-e-Shoora to address various concerns and short-

comings in the current electoral system.

The goal behind these changes is to ensure a fair, transparent, and efficient electoral process that upholds democratic principles and fosters public trust.

During the presentation of the Bill, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar highlighted that all parliamentary parties have reached a unanimous consensus, leading to substantial enhancements in Section 230 of the Election Act 2017, thereby increasing its effectiveness.

Under an amendment, the Returning Officer will be bound to send the election results by 2 am on the day following an election. However, the deadline for submitting the result will be 10 am the next day.

Economy on track of progress as default risk ebbs away: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday said that the country's economy was on the course of progress as the risk of default had been averted, consequent to the efforts by the coalition parties.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the Pakistan Business Council here, said all the coalition parties cooperated in every decision of the government.

He said the government was keen to revive national economy through investment facilitation and business-friendly policies.

The prime minister said restoring the confidence

of investors and the business community was the greatest achievement.

He said the government would miss no opportunity for economic recovery, restoration of confidence of international partners, investors and the business community.

He told the meeting that a Special Investment Facilitation Council had been established for foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

He acknowledged that the business community did not only provide employment opportunities in the country but also becomes a source of foreign exchange by enhancing exports.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi chairing the Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy held at Naval Headquarters.

PM due to arrive in Gwadar today

ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister, Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is due to arrive in the port city of Gwadar today (Thursday).

The Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister Housing, Maulana Abdul Wasey, Federal Minister Communications and Postal Services, Maulana Asad Mehmood, Federal Minister Information, Ms. Maryam Aurangzaib and others are also expected to be accompanied with the Prime Minister during the Gwadar's visit.

President Alvi calls for cementing Pak-Tunisia economic collaboration

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday emphasized the need for promoting greater economic collaborations with Tunisia to boost bilateral trade.

He, talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Republic of Tunisia, Javed Ahmed Umrani, who called on him, also called for increasing interactions and exchanges between the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of the two countries.

He said that Pakistan greatly valued its historical and brotherly ties with Tunisia and both countries had commonality of views on various issues.

He asked the envoy to play his role in further strengthening bilateral relations with Tunisia by increasing cooperation in the

fields of education, culture, and defense.

President Alvi acknowledged Tunisia's vision for making OIC a substantive platform for advancing inter-faith harmony as well as cooperation in addressing international issues such as the Jammu and Kashmir Dispute, Palestine and Islamophobia.

He also welcomed Tunisia's support to the resolution presented by Pakistan on behalf of OIC at the UN Human Rights Council in July 2023 on "Countering Religious Hatred" in the wake of the incident of burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

The president asked the ambassador-designate to highlight at various fora the issues of Islamophobia as well as the mistreatment of minorities in India.

Naval Chief stresses combat readiness to thwart any aggression against country

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Wednesday emphasized on maintaining perpetual combat readiness to effectively thwart any aggression against Pakistan.

He stressed this while addressing the concluding session of Command & Staff Conference of Pakistan Navy held at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad.

During the conference, participants assessed evolving maritime situation in the

region and discussed a range of topics related to national security, geostrategic affairs, combat readiness and discussed various service policies. Readiness for disaster relief operations amid potential flood alerts during ongoing monsoon season in the country was also reviewed.

Naval Chief Admiral Amjad Niazi also directed all naval commands to be fully ready for humanitarian assistance during the ongoing monsoon season.

SC rejects chairman PTI plea for stopping trial in Toshakhana criminal case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) while rejecting chairman PTI plea for stopping the trial in Toshakhana criminal case has sent the matter to Islamabad High Court (IHC). The court ordered that the counsel for the petitioner and DG Law election commission agreed that IHC should give decision after hearing both of the applications first.

Justice Yahya Afridi remarked how can we stop the trial when we are referring the matter to high court.

Justice Yahya Afridi remarked when high court order is challenged then we will issue appropriate order after hearing it in details. High court has not given direct order so far.

On the hue and cry outside the court before commencement of hearing the court expressed annoyance saying Khawaja Harris "please see the matters outside the court. We cannot hear the case this way."

The two members bench resumed the hearing after silence was maintained outside the court.

Justice Musarrat Hilali remarked how can we stop the trial when we are referring the matter to high court.

Justice Yahya Afridi remarked when high court order is challenged then we will issue appropriate order after hearing it in details. High court has not given direct order so far.

Brother, nephew of MPA Aslam Abro shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI (Online): Sindh Assembly member Aslam Abro's brother and nephew were killed as a result of firing on his brother's vehicle near Qayumabad in the Defense Housing Authority area of Karachi while 2 people were injured. According to the police, Vigo vehicle number KV 6052 was fired upon by the motorcycle riding terrorists. The police said that Elahi Bakhsh Abro was safe in the firing incident while MPA Aslam Abro's brother Akram Abro and nephew Shahryar Abro were killed in the car.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Republic of Tunisia, Mr. Javed Ahmed Umrani, called on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Aitwan-e-Sadr.

Primary purpose of the state is to protect the lives and property of masses: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): The police here on Wednesday organized a ceremony to mark the passing out parade of the 38th Basic Recruit Course.

Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan attended the ceremony as chief guest, said a press release.

Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, senior police officers, representatives from civil society, and the newly inducted young recruits were present on the occasion. A smart contingent unit of the police force presented a guard of honor to the chief guest.

The minister said young talent from various parts of the country was serving as members of the Islamabad Police force.

He commended the inclusive recruitment process and emphasized the significance of upholding

values like honesty, integrity, and service to the people as they started their duty to protect and serve the nation.

The minister pointed out that the recent recruitment of 1,751 personnel in Islamabad Capital Police, the largest recruitment drive in the nation's history, included 208 women.

The selection was based on merit rather than political, linguistic, or regional affiliations, he added.

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the jawans for choosing the path of service through the police force. Your dedication and commitment to safeguarding the life, property, and honor of the citizens are commendable and praiseworthy," Rana Sana remarked.

He also shed light on the government's commitment to enhancing the welfare of the police force.

The minister said Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif's steps for approving and implementing various initiatives aimed for the welfare of Islamabad police personnel.

"The primary purpose of the state is to protect the lives and property of its citizens. The most crucial responsibility of a police official is to safeguard the lives and property of the people, and it is a duty and a form of worship," he added.

Rana Sana stated the government's initiative for providing financial support to the police personnel's families.

The minister said that the outstanding dues of the martyrs' families, amounting to a substantial sum of Rs 1240 million, were immediately paid when PML-N led government came into power.

China willing to strengthen strategic coordination with Pakistan: Zhao Leji

BEIJING (APP): China is ready to work with Pakistan to implement the important consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries, deepen exchanges and cooperation in various fields and push forward the China-Pakistan all-weather strategic cooperative partnership for new and greater development.

These views were expressed by China's top legislator Zhao Leji during his talks with the Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf via video

link, China's state-run media reported on Wednesday.

Zhao, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, hailed Pakistan for giving firm support to China on issues concerning China's core interests over a long period of time.

He said China is willing to strengthen strategic coordination with Pakistan and promote the building of an even closer China-Pakistan community of shared future in the new era.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan reviewing the parade during the passing out ceremony of 38th Basic Recruit Course at Police Lines.

Naqvi reviews security arrangements to ensure public safety in Muharram

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi has stated that comprehensive security arrangements have been made throughout Punjab to ensure public safety during Muharram-ul-Haram.

Processions and gatherings have been geotagged and all processions and gatherings are being supervised through CCTV cameras, he added.

He said that every effort is being made by the government to ensure peace and security during Muharram-ul-Haram, adding that mobile service would be temporarily suspended where needed.

Chief Secretary, IG police and relevant security officials are monitoring the security situation, and all line departments are on high alert, he said.

Provincial ministers, administrative officers, and police officials are present in the field and will remain present to maintain a peaceful atmosphere through unity and cooperation, he added.

CM Mohsin Naqvi inspected the routes and reviewed security arrangements for gatherings and processions related to Muharram-ul-Haram by visiting Khaima-e-Saadaat, Lytton Road, and Taxali Road late night.

Citizens to get municipal services through single click: Amir Mir

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Information and Local Government Amir Mir on Wednesday said that the Punjab government decided to decentralize all municipal services for the convenience of citizens.

To achieve the goal, the local government department established a complaints management and information system where citizens could access services with just one click.

In a statement, the minister said that as part of this system, preparations have been completed to launch a helpline number 1198 through which citizens could register complaints and obtain information related to municipal services. Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi would soon inaugurate this system for awareness and handling of complaints about municipal services, he added.

Youth shot dead, body found in Lahore

LAHORE (INP): A youth was shot dead over financial dispute while body of another youth was recovered roadside in different areas of the city on Wednesday, police said.

According to details, Muhammad Ali of Defence-C Lahore sold his land to Rana Nasir at Kala Khatai road but accused refused to pay for the purchased after which the deceased got stay order from the court.

Over same dispute, culprit Rana Nasir gunned down Muhammad Ali and fled the scene.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali inspecting the control room during the eve of Muharram ul Haram during his visit to Razaq Police Station.

Azam directs effective measures for improvement of law and order in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Expressing concerns over recent incidents of terrorism, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan here Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to take effective measures for improvement of the law and order situation in the province.

He was presiding over a high-level meeting about the law and order situation in KP. The meeting reviewed the overall security situation of the province. Information Minister Farooz Jamal, Chief Secretary, IGP KP and other senior officials attended.

The caretaker Chief Minister stressed the need for a special focus on security measures in sensitive districts and places during Muharram and said that special measures in that regard were inevitable for which all stakeholders need to play an effective role.

The caretaker Chief Minister held the sacrifices of security forces and police in high esteem.

Court orders to stop salary of IGP, others over not producing Parvez Elahi

LAHORE (APP): A special court (central) on Wednesday ordered accountant general Punjab to stop salary of Home secretary Punjab, inspector general of police (IGP) Punjab and inspector general of prisons Punjab over not producing former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Parvez Elahi during the hearing of a money laundering case.

The court imposed a fine of Rs 50,000 each on the officers and also issued show cause notices to them for August 5.

Special Court Judge Bakht Fakhri Behzad conducted the proceedings of the money laundering case against Parvez Elahi and others.

Earlier, the court expressed displeasure over not producing Chaudhry Parvez Elahi and directed for producing him by 3.00pm.

The court observed that strict action would be taken if the court orders were not complied with.

As the court resumed proceedings at 3.00pm, DIG Operations Ali Nasir Rizvi, Deputy Superintendent Adiala Jail and other officials appeared.

Senator Mushtaq for steps to improve law & order in merged KP districts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Senator Mushtaq Ahmed, representing Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) on Wednesday called for taking steps to improve law and order situation in merged districts of Kyber-Pakhtunkhwa.

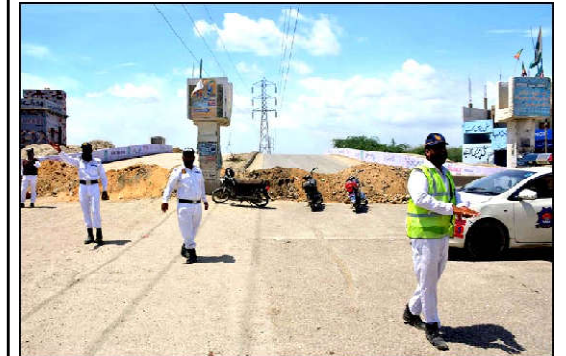
Speaking at the joint session of the parliament, he stressed the Federal and provincial governments to take prompt and effective measures to restore peace and stability in the region.

The Senator's made the passionate appeal in the wake of tragic incident at Ali Mosque the other day, where terrorists targeted the place of worship, resulting in the martyrdom of Adnan Afridi, Additional SHO.

The loss of life, he said, underscored the immediate need for taking decisive action against the terrorist elements.

He said that the local community had also taken out peace marches to express their support to promptly resolve these issues.

Speaker of the National Assembly, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, paid tribute to the sacrifices of the security forces in their relentless efforts to eliminate terrorism these areas.



KARACHI: View of closed Korangi Causeway road for traffic that was completely destroyed while security and rescue officials stand alert to avoid untoward incident after flood flows in Korangi Drain River after heavy downpour of monsoon season, in Karachi.

'Education to usher era of progress, development in tribal region'

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Excise and Narcotics Control, Haji Manzoor Khan Afridi has said that education will play a key role in the development of the merged districts and a new era of development will begin in the region by paying special attention to it.

He expressed these views while discussing the education sector projects in merged districts during a meeting with Education Adviser Rahmat Salam Khattak.

Deputy District Education Officer District Khyber Shahid Ali Khan and other officials participated in the meeting.

The provincial minister said that the caretaker government is taking practical steps for the promotion of education and besides the provision of facilities in educational institutions; scholarships are also being paid to both boys and girls students.



KARACHI: A view of the massive traffic jam at Qayyumabad area due to the closure of the road because of the flooded conditions on Korangi road in Provincial Capital.

International News

New Chinese foreign minister Wang talks Ukraine in Turkey on first trip

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi discussed Ukraine with his Turkish counterpart in Ankara and met President Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday during his first foreign trip since being appointed, a Turkish foreign ministry source said.

China named Wang, a veteran diplomat, as its new foreign minister on Tuesday, removing former rising star Qin Gang after a one-month absence from duties barely half a year into the job. Discussions between Wang and Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan included the latest situation in Ukraine as well as the global financial system, the Turkish foreign ministry source said.

Russia has expanded its air attacks on Ukrainian grain targets in recent days after quitting a 2022 deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey that had allowed the safe Black Sea export of Ukrainian grain for the past year.

The United States and several European countries have urged China to use its influence over Russia to seek an end to the war in Ukraine. Earlier this year, China published a 12-point peace plan, calling for the protection of civilians and the sovereignty of all countries to be respected.

During his talks with Wang, Erdogan voiced hope that Turkey and China would intensify their cooperation as both countries play important roles in global and regional issues, Erdogan's office said in a statement released after the meeting.

Fidan and Wang also touched on the development of economic and trade relations between Turkey and China, the Turkish foreign ministry source said.

Their discussions included "harmonisation of the initiatives of (China's) Belt and Road and Middle Corridor", as well as nuclear energy, agriculture and civil aviation, the source added.



Turkey's President Tayyip Erdogan meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Presidential Palace in Ankara, Turkey.

North Korea to welcome China and Russia with military display after pandemic isolation

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: After years of pandemic isolation, North Korea has invited its friends back this week, hosting senior Chinese and Russian delegations for 70th anniversary commemorations of the Korean War and the struggle against the United States and its allies.

The visiting dignitaries, which include Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu and Chinese Communist Party Politburo member Li Hongzhong, are expected to be presented with one of North Korea's signature events: a massive military parade showcasing its latest weaponry.

Analysts say the spectacle will likely include the North's nuclear-tipped missiles banned by the United Nations Security Council, where Russia and China are permanent members.

The visits are the first known foreign delegations to visit North Korea since the COVID-19 pandemic began, and come as Pyongyang has looked to deepen its ties with Beijing and Moscow, finding common ground in their rivalries with Washington and the West. Thursday's holiday, in which North Korea celebrates what it sees as a victory over U.S.-led allied forces in the 1950-1953 Korean War, provides a chance for Pyongyang to highlight the Cold War days when North Korean troops fought with Chinese and Russian support.

West Africa recorded over 1,800 terrorist attack in first six months of 2023, regional official says

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: West Africa recorded over 1,800 terrorist attacks in the first six months of the year resulting in nearly 4,600 deaths with dire humanitarian consequences, and a top regional official said Tuesday that's just "a snippet of the horrendous impact of insecurity."

Omar Touray told the U.N. Security Council that half a million people in the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States known as ECOWAS are refugees and nearly 6.2 million are internally displaced. If there isn't an adequate international response to the 30 million people ECOWAS assesses need food right now, he said, the number of people in need will increase to 42 million by the end of next month.

Touray, who is president of the ECOWAS Commission, singled out the following drivers of insecurity in the region: terrorism, armed rebellion,

African leaders arrive in Russia for summit as Kremlin seeks allies amid fighting in Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
ST. PETERSBURG: Some African leaders arrived in Russia on Wednesday for a summit with President Vladimir Putin as the Kremlin seeks more allies amid the fighting in Ukraine.

Putin has billed the two-day summit that opens Thursday in St. Petersburg as a major event that would help bolster ties with a continent of 1.3 billion people that is increasingly assertive on the global stage.

On Wednesday, Putin met separately with Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, and said Russia will more than triple the number of Ethiopian students it hosts and cover their education costs.

Later in the day, Putin is set to hold talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. Africa's 54 nations make up the largest voting bloc at the United Nations and have been more divided than any other region on General Assembly resolutions criticizing Russia's actions in Ukraine.

It's the second Russia-Africa summit since 2019, and the number of heads of states attending shrank from 43 then to 17 now because of what the Kremlin described as a crude Western pressure to discourage African nations from attending it.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov deplored "unconcealed brazen interference by the U.S., France and other states through their diplomatic missions in African countries, and attempts to put pressure on the leadership of these countries in order to prevent their active participation in the forum."



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits the Chinese People's Volunteer Army Martyrs' cemetery in this photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

China's sharp-tongued foreign minister is ousted, but his combative style is expected to continue

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's sharp-tongued foreign minister, Qin Gang, was something of an avatar for nationalist Communist Party leader and President Xi Jinping, warning of "conflict and confrontation" with the U.S., the stakes of which could be the "future of humanity." Now, Qin has been dismissed from office in the biggest political tumult to strike China in a decade.

Qin's departure was announced Tuesday after a month-long disappearance from public view, sparking rumors of personal scandals or friction within the top party echelons. He was absent from key meetings as the U.S. sent Secretary of State Antony Blinken and other officials to Beijing. It also comes during economic challenges and poor relations with the United States and other nations that China relies on for economic development but is also seeking to push aside in its drive to overcome the Western-led economic order.



Members of the Philippine Coast Guard remove a fallen tree from a road following the onslaught of Typhoon Doksuri in Buguey, Cagayan province, Philippines.

Indian government faces no-confidence vote over Manipur ethnic clashes

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's parliament on Wednesday authorised a no-confidence vote against Narendra Modi's government by an alliance of opposition parties, to force the prime minister to address in detail concerns about ethnic clashes in the northeastern state of Manipur. Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has a clear majority of 301 members in the 542-seat lower house of parliament, so the no-confidence vote will not affect its stability.

The opposition instead wants to trigger a debate about violence in the remote, BJP-ruled Manipur state, where more than 130 people have been killed and 60,000 displaced since it began in early May. Approving the opposition motion, lower house speaker Om Birla said he would soon decide when the debate and vote would take place.

Jakarta terms Taliban officials' visit 'informal'

Monitoring Desk
J A K A R T A : Representative of Afghanistan's Taliban government travelled to Indonesia this month on an unofficial visit, the foreign ministry in Jakarta said on Tuesday, despite Kabul saying they held meetings with politicians in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

"My understanding is that they were in Jakarta informally for internal matters with the Afghanistan mission here."

PM Shehbaz successfully navigates Pakistan's complex landscape: Arab News

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif after facing significant challenges, inheriting a country on the verge of financial default, has been able to successfully navigate this complex landscape by engaging coalition leaders, the security establishment and key foreign partners. As a result, Pakistan is now stable enough to transition smoothly to a caretaker setup, which will hold the next general election, according to an article published by the Saudi Arab based daily newspaper "Arab News".

It said the political turmoil has receded since the appointment of Gen. Asim Munir as the chief of the army staff in November. "A new staff-level agreement with the International Monetary Fund, worth \$3 billion for a period of nine months, was concluded in June... and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor stands revived, while relations with the US are also back on track," the article said adding most notably, the civil-military collaboration has expanded to the economic sphere, giving renewed momentum to Pakistan's economic partnership with the leading GCC economies. Since 2019, Saudi Arabia, China and the UAE have offered concessional loans worth several billion dollars to shore up Pakistan's foreign reserves. These loans have subsequently been rolled over to meet the IMF demand. The latest IMF deal became possible after Saudi Arabia deposited an additional loan of \$2 billion in the

State Bank of Pakistan, the daily added.

The Kingdom has always stood by Pakistan through thick and thin. But Pakistan must stand on its own two feet. The Special Investment Facilitation Council offers a viable pathway in this respect. Its establishment indicates that Pakistan's civilian and military leaders understand the risk of dependency on foreign loans. And they are preparing to lay down a solid economic base through attracting investment from friendly countries.

The article added that political instability results in frequent changes of government and the consequent lack of continuity in economic policies. These issues have plagued major investment commitments by Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar in the recent past. While visiting Islamabad in 2019, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman pledged \$20 billion of investment in the energy, minerals and mining sectors. Likewise, the UAE and Qatar have committed \$9 billion. But these pledges are yet to materialize due to cumbersome procedures and structural impediments.

Going forward, the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement with the UAE needs to be emulated in Pakistan's trade links with Saudi Arabia and the other GCC members. Pakistan's skilled manpower in the IT and services sectors is a perfect match for the economic transformations taking place in the Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia.



ISLAMABAD: The Planning Minister Professor Ahsan Iqbal launches "National Multi-sectoral Nutrition to Reduce Stunting & Other Forms of Malnutrition" worth Rs8.5 billion under Pakistan Nutrition Initiatives (PANI).



KARACHI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes laptops among the high achievers of public sector universities of Sindh under PM's Youth Laptop Scheme 2023 at Governor House.

Will distribute a million laptops annually, if given mandate in next polls: PM

KARACHI (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said that if given a mandate in next general elections, his next government would distribute around one million laptops across the country annually as part of the vision to support the talented youth.

The prime minister, addressing a ceremony for the distribution of laptops and cheques for youth business loans, said with support from allies, a mechanism would be formulated - to be equally funded by centre and provinces - to distribute up to 1000,000 laptops across all provinces.

"This is how the revolution will come... This is

the only way to make the nation progress," the prime minister told the ceremony also attended by Sindh governor, chief minister, federal ministers, MQM leaders, provincial ministers, diplomats, and representatives of bankers.

He said youths from across the country needed to be equipped with education and provided maximum resources for country's swift progress.

Mentioning the launch of the capital venture initiative for freelancers on Tuesday, he lauded the youngsters' talent for developing the projects like converting banana peels into different products and drones for agricultural use.

He said it would be sheer injustice if the talented youths were not provided with the required resources as they were the guarantee for the country's prosperity.

He said the incumbent government was in the process of distributing 100,000 laptops announced for the fiscal 2022-23 while the provision for another 100,000 laptops had been made in the budget 2023-24 which would be distributed purely on merit, without any nepotism.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said the caretaker government should also ensure the merit in laptops' distribution keeping the excellence and enrollment in public sector universities as the only merit.



Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman NHA Captain (R) Muhammad Khurram Agha is giving instructions to deal with the flood situation in Balochistan.

Secy communications for early restoration of affected highways

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Secretary Communications and Chairman National Highway Authority Captain @ Muhammad Khurram Agha directed for earlier restoration of traffic on affected portions of the roads affected by recent rains and floods in Balochistan.

He also desired to maintain close liaisons with provincial and local authorities to tackle unpleasant situations in the province. On the directive of Federal Minister

Peshawar's environmental samples tested polio positive

ISLAMABAD (APP): The environmental samples collected from Peshawar district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province tested positive for wild poliovirus.

According to the Ministry of National Health Services, on receiving the report, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said that the poliovirus on any side of the border was a threat to children everywhere.

He said that parents must continue to ensure that their children under five received the anti-polio drops in all campaigns.

Ahsan for collective efforts to tackle 'hyper malnutrition' challenge

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Wednesday stressed for collective efforts to tackle the challenge what he called 'hyper malnutrition', affecting the physical and mental health of children.

"After last year's floods; the challenge of malnutrition is no longer malnutrition but it has become the challenge of hyper malnutrition as the flood-calamity hit the poorest of the poor," the minister was addressing the launching ceremony of the National Multisectoral Nutrition Programme to reduce stunting and other forms of malnutrition.

He said the federal government had launched this initiative which would be implemented in collaboration with all stakeholders including provinces, donors and active community.

Terming the nutrition-related issues 'alarming,' the minister said "Today is the age of knowledge revolution which requires creativity and innovation driven by cognitive skills. And it all depends on children's nutritional health."



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki call on Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafique at Ministry of Aviation.

UNESCO demands ban smart phones in schools

ISLAMABAD (Online): United Nations demanded ban on use of smart phones in educational institutes so that children learning ability may increase and save them from online abuse.

UNESCO's (UN's institute of education, science, and culture) report contains evidence to prove that often use of mobile phones affects students educational performance.

Children's emotional stability also affects due to excessive use of phones: report

It has been demanded in report to ban smart phones in schools to send a message that technology does not matters more than an assistant to human's education.

UNESCO warned the effects of digital technology and stressed that positive effects of technology are exaggerated for learning and economic benefits.

Report said that every change cannot be declared development, every new thing is not always better.

According to international institute many revolutions are hidden in digital technology but along with that many risks are also being discussed. Same attention should be paid to education sector.

UNESCO director general Azoulay Audrey said technology use experiment should be to improve the students and teachers but it is needed to focus our attention on those who are learning its use. Online contacts cannot replace human relations. It is needed to make digital technology beneficial and safe from its disadvantages, said in report.

Referring international data report said that excessive use of smart phones, tablets or laptops.

Pakistan at 99th place among 121 countries on Global Hunger Index

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan has dropped from 38.1 in 2006 to 26.1 in 2022 in the ranking on the Global Hunger Index (GHI-2022) and is at 99th place in the list of 121 countries.

According to the report, although Pakistan's ranking has improved, the hunger level is considered serious. Zero score indicates a country has no issue of hunger.

The report said 16.9 per cent population in Pakistan was undernourished. The death rate of children under the age of five years is 6.5 per cent and 7.1 per cent are wasted, while 37.6 per cent children under five are stunted.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of WEFIXERS Organization, Islamabad visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House.

Single-use plastic items banned in Capital from Aug 1: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Wednesday informed that a new regulation further limiting the use of single-use plastic items was going to be imposed from August 1 in the federal capital, he minister flanked by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Syed Mujtaba Hussain while launching the first-ever National Adaptation Plan approved by the federal capital, briefed the media on banning one-time use of plastic items.

Senator Rehman said that the Ministry had taken the decision after proper consultations with the plastic bags and items manufacturing industry to circumvent any possibility of unemployment or damage to businesses.

She said, "By 2050, plastics will be more than marine life in our oceans and it has a lifetime shelf life."

The single use of plastics would be completely banned after the implementation of the revised statutory regulatory order (SRO), she added.

Hussain said from ban on single use plastic bags it was further extended to other items were used in routine life and was causing risk to the environment as the drains, land and air



The Additional Secretary informed that plastic plates, bowls, cups, glasses, stirrer and cutler and also packaging items would be completely banned in the federal capital, he minister flanked by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination Syed Mujtaba Hussain while launching the first-ever National Adaptation Plan approved by the federal capital, briefed the media on banning one-time use of plastic items.

Qureshi says: PTI being kept away from Electoral Reforms Bill

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said PTI is being kept from Electoral Reforms Bill (ERB). "Maoulana Fazlur Rehman is striving to forge alliance against PPP", he said this while talking to media men outside Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) here Wednesday.

He went on to say that the judge directed the prosecution to bring to fore evidence on previous hearing.

ERB has become talk of the town now a days and we have reservations on it, he held. The allied parties of government have too reservations on this bill. Raza Rabbani too has expressed reservations on this bill.

Another electric shock to public NEPRA increases electricity price by Rs 1.88 per unit

ISLAMABAD (Online): NEPRA has approved increase in cost of electricity by RS 1.88 per unit for 1 month. Additional RS 24 billion will be charged to people. Chairman NEPRA said that why did they buy expensive electricity despite being cheap?

National wealth is being wasted despite having all resources. Who is responsible for so many destroyed towers?

Request for increase in cost of electricity by RS 1.88 for 1 month for government Discos has been heard in NEPRA under H. Farooqui.

Authorities said that alternative and expensive plants were operated due to fault in transmission lines. Chairman NEPRA asked that you are getting electricity for 4 to 7 rupees, so why did you charge more?

NTDC authorities said that getting power from K2 Hydro and others is the first priority. Member NEPRA said that from 2016 to 2023, 133 towers were destroyed on the NTDC system.

If there is such a situation in any other country in the world, please let me know.

NDDC shifted all the burden to climate change.



ISLAMABAD: A motorcyclist pass through rain water at Ghouri Town.

Police Education Wing organizes four-day road safety workshop

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police (Education Wing) organized a four-day Road Safety Workshop at COMSATS University Islamabad which emphasized the importance of observing road safety and traffic laws, not only for one's own safety but also for the safety of others.

More than 50 drivers and other staff members participated in the workshop, where they were educated about road safety and cautious driving. On this occasion, special guest SP (Traffic) Chaudhry Abid Hussain emphasized the importance of observing road safety and traffic laws, not only for one's own safety but also for the safety of others.

He urged everyone to act responsibly while driving, follow traffic rules, and encourage others to do the same. He emphasized that being a responsible citizen means adhering to the law and avoiding negligence, which ensures our safety and the safety of others.

Protecting the lives and property of citizens is our foremost duty, he added. According to the police spokesperson, the special instructions of Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital Police organized a 4-day Road Safety Workshop at COMSATS University Islamabad, where more than 50 drivers and other staff members participated. The participants were educated about road safety, cautious driving, and other traffic laws. This initiative was carried out by the SP Traffic Education Wing, in-charge Sub-Inspector Muhammad Shafique Bajwa, and his team. The workshop covered topics such as the dangers of using mobile phones during driving, the importance of seat belts and helmets, the risks of driving without helmets on motorbikes, the consideration of the rights of other road users, the use of the headlight beam, the use of zebra crossing, dangers of over speeding, and other traffic laws.