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dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and other dignitaries at the inaugural ceremony of Green Pakistan Initiative.

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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said that the Green Pakistan Initiative would eventually bring about the second agricultural revolution, in addition to the creation of four million jobs in the country. Addressing a seminar on agriculture and food security, he said agriculture was the backbone of the country and the farmers worked hard to provide food to millions of people and they would be remembered in the history as builders of Pakistan. He said the farmers had the due right to avail incentives for the agriculture sector and it was the responsibility of the government to provide them all possible assistance for overall development and progress. "Farmers work hard but it is common knowledge that they are facing lack of resources," he added. The prime minister said growth in the agriculture sector would definitely bring Pakistan at par with developed countries. He said hard work was imperative to ensure progress of Pakistan, adding the green revolution in 1960s was due to the introduction of new varieties of seed, building of dams and canals and modern agriculture practices in the country.

Swiss Ambassador calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that there were ample opportunities for Pakistan and Switzerland in various fields to further enhance their mutual cooperation. This he said while talking to Ambassador of Switzerland Georg Steiner at Governor House here on Monday. Bilateral relations, the need to further enhance bilateral ties, investment opportunities in Sindh and other matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail on the occasion.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner called on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Monday said the May 9 incidents had only benefited the "enemy", but it was the nation who ultimately emerged victorious with the foiling of conspiracy against Pakistan. Ironically, she said, the "foreign agent", who masterminded the May 9 tragedy made a tweet the other day asking who benefited from the May 9 tragedy. "Only the enemies of the country benefited from the acts of vandalism and arson, but the people of Pakistan are the ultimate winners as the conspiracy against the country's integrity has been foiled," she said while addressing a press conference. The minister was responding to a question posed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on his Twitter handle asking who was benefited from the May 9 incidents of vandalising public and private properties, desecrating memorials of martyrs, and burning of ambulances, schools and mosques by the PTI workers.



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

Sindh govt approves 17.5 percent increase in pension

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has sanctioned an increase of 17.5 percent on net pension with effect from July 01, 2023 until further orders to all civil pensioners of the Sindh government. The increase in the pension as mentioned at Para-01 will also be admissible to the pensioners, who would retire on or after July 01, 2023, according to a communiqué here on Monday. The term "Net Pension" means "Pension being drawn" minus "Medical Allowance". The increase will also be admissible to family pension granted under the Pension-cum-Gratuity Scheme 1954 Liberalized Pension Rules 1977 on

pension sanctioned under the Central Civil Services (Extra Ordinary Pension) Rules as well as on the Compassionate Allowance under CSR-353. If the gross pension sanctioned by the Sindh government is shared with any government in accordance with the rules laid down in Part-IV of Appendix III to the Accounts Code, Volume-1, the amount of the increase in pension will be apportioned between the federal government and the other government concerned on proportionate basis. The increase in pension sanctioned will not be admissible to Special Additional Pension allowed in lieu of pre-retirement Orderly Allowance.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday dares Imran Niazi to face courts for his crimes and cases of corruption and plunder, and severely criticized him for carrying out revenge against Nawaz Sharif, his party and for fabricating false cases against political opponents. In a tweet tagging the account of Imran Niazi, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Allah for making his party including his Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif victorious against lies of opponent political group blinded by political revenge, against baseless cases and in every test of public service.

Not only in Pakistan but in the decisions of National Crime Agency and

courts of Britain there was satisfactory and sufficient response to every question of merchants of lies, he added. The PM said the latest example was the verdict in the plot allotment reference in the Accountability Court Lahore in which it was clearly stated that Nawaz Sharif was made target of political victimization and there was no case but it was a fabrication.

The transgressors who called this falsehood a reference should seek forgiveness from Allah and the people, he said, adding, "But only those seek forgiveness who have fear of Allah in their hearts and have the capacity to ask for clemency."

The appointment has been made for a period of three years. The president administered the oath in line with clause (2) of the Article 203C of the Constitution.

President administers oath to Dr Syed Anwar as Alim Judge of FSC
ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday administered oath to Dr Syed Muhammad Anwar as Alim Judge of the Federal Shariat Court at a ceremony held here at the President House.

Court acquits Suleman, others in money laundering case
LAHORE (APP): A special court (central) on Monday acquitted Suleman Shehbaz and others in a Rs 16 billion money-laundering case, registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA). Special Court Judge Bakht Fakhir Behzad announced the verdict while allowing acquittal applications of Suleman Shehbaz and others. Earlier, the FIA submitted replies to 27 questions, asked by the court, during the proceedings. To a court query, the FIA prosecutor submitted that a joint investigation team, headed by Dr Rizwan, had conducted an inquiry into the money-laundering charges.

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

Nasir Shah inaugurates project for beautification of Shahr-e-Faisal
KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Monday, along with Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab inaugurated a project of beautification and improvement of Shahr-e-Faisal. A series of development and beautification work would be carried out under an Rs. 195.71 million project on the 18 km long major artery from Jinnah International Airport to Hotel Metropole for improving the environment, facilities for pedestrian movement, landscaping and artistic works and designs. Syed Nasir Hussain Shah while speaking at the occasion said that the project was aimed at the beautification of Shahr-e-Faisal so that visitors, both international and local, entering Karachi through the major artery have a better look at the metropolis. The minister said that the Sindh government un-

der the leadership of CM Murad Ali Shah was working day and night to materialise Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision of development, welfare and improvement. He said that all the concerned departments of the Sindh government and city government as well as the cantonments and CAA were on a single page and work with coordination to complete the project and achieve desired objectives. Nasir Shah said that the PPP Sindh government was carrying out hundreds of development projects across the province and particularly in the provincial capital to ensure better facilities for the people and to resolve their problems. Sindh government had completed record projects despite natural calamities and non-cooperation of the previous PTI federal government, he claimed adding that number of completed projects was higher than any other province of Pakistan.

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

Sharmila Farooqi says: PPP leadership fighting against poverty, empowering youth
ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader Sharmila Farooqi Monday said that her party leadership was fighting for the rights of underprivileged people and empowering youth for the restoration of true democracy in the country. "PPP was neither in favour of early nor delayed general elections it only demands transparent and timely elections which should be acceptable to all", she mentioned. Replying to a query, she said that political stability was highly important right now to achieve economic stability, attract investment, and ensure development and prosperity in the country.

Resident of Sultana abad block road during protest against shortage of electricity.
KARACHI: Resident of Sultana abad block road during protest against shortage of electricity.

When asked about the



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

PM orders fool-proof arrangements for possible flood situation in Ravi, Sutlej, Chenab

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed the relevant authorities to make fool-proof arrangements to handle the possible flood situation in Ravi, Chenab and Sutlej rivers. He also directed them to get prepared for timely and safe evacuation and create awareness among the people in the potentially affected areas. The prime minister appreciated the Rangers and Rescue 1122 personnel for the timely evacuation and assistance of the people trapped in flood water in Shakargarh. He said the timely relief actions by the Rangers and Rescue helped save dozens of people including women and children.

Ghana's High Commissioner calls on Commissioner Karachi
KARACHI (APP): Ghana's High Commissioner Owusu-Boateng on Monday along with a four-member delegation called on Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon at the Commissioner office here. The HC of Ghana and Commissioner Karachi discussed matters of mutual interest, said a spokesperson of the Commissioner. They also discussed matters related to the exploration of new trade opportunities and further enhance mutual trade relations. Ghana's HC briefed the Commissioner about the trade opportunities available for Pakistan in Ghana. He said that there was a demand in Ghana for various products of Pakistan, especially cotton garments. Iqbal Memon said that Pakistan and Ghana have cordial and friendly relations and there was a need to find opportunities to increase the existing trade relations between the two countries, which could increase Pakistan's foreign exchange. He said that he would play his role in increasing the trade relations between Pakistan and Ghana and would draw the attention of the industrial community of Karachi and Pakistan to find opportunities for the promotion of Pakistani products in Ghana. He said that trade opportunities for both countries were promising and businessmen should make joint efforts to increase them.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

House gutted, girl injured

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



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

Meeting held to create awareness against dengue in KP

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

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

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

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

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

Two children die as landslide hits Swat houses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) Pakistan while conducting nine operations across the country managed to recover over 36 kg drugs and arrested seven accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Monday. He informed that in an operation near Khana Road, Rawalpindi, an accused was arrested with 1000 grams charras.

In second operation conducted in a deserted area of Turbat, 18 kg Ice drug concealed in bushes was recovered. In third operation near Bilawal Chowrangi, Clifton Karachi, 10kg charras was recovered from a rickshaw while an accused resident of Karachi was also rounded up.

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

KP witnesses significant fall in anti-polio drops refusal cases

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

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

6 acres state land retrieved

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

International News

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

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

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

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

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

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

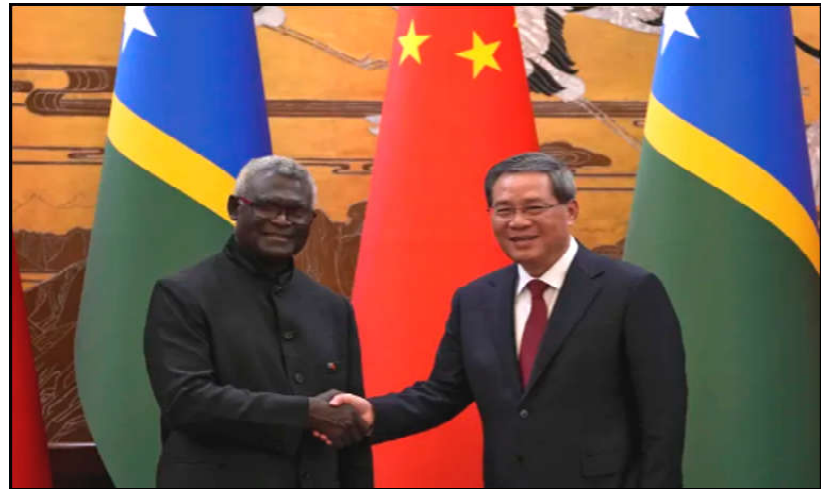
Britain's King Charles and The President of the United States, Joe Biden on stage in the Quadrangle at Windsor Castle on July 10, 2023 in Windsor, England. Chris Jackson/Pool via REUTERS

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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shavkat Mirziyoyev re-elected as Uzbekistan's President

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

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

Ahsan Iqbal says: Digital economy vital for sustainable development

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal on Monday shed light on the importance of growing the digital economy, termed digital economy is vital to ensure sustainable development of the country.

The minister made these remarks while speaking at the panel discussion titled: "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," organized

by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) here.

It is noted that the Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is on a four-day official visit to China to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 (tomorrow) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity.

While highlighting the importance of "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," the planning minister said that industrialization and digital era connectivity have transformed the world as

both have brought unprecedented opportunities for progress, economic growth, and global connectivity.

However, he emphasized the harmonization in digital policies and standards by stronger collaboration through multilateral forums.

Ahsan Iqbal said that digital connectivity has revolutionized communication and collaboration in industrial sectors.



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



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori cutting ribbon to inaugurate IT Gate at Governor House.

Governor inaugurates Sindh I.T Gate

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori inaugurated the Sindh I.T. Gate here on Monday.

While talking to media persons after the inauguration, he said that they were giving importance to Information Technology (I.T.) for the promotion of innovation. He said that the Governor House had received 1 million applications for I.T. course and 0.1 million candidates would be selected through test in the first phase whereas other candidates could also be transferred to other courses.

Kamran Tessori said that a list of roll numbers of the aspiring candidates would be uploaded on social media platforms.

Condemning PTI chief Imran Khan, he said that Imran Khan merely wanted the government and he did not care about the people.

It is pertinent to mention here that on the directives of the Sindh Governor, the Governor House was going to conduct three courses including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Web 3.0 and Metaverse.

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

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

"You have become a parody of yourself, as the events of May 9 turned into a bonfire of your vanities. The entire nation witnessed it, and there is ample evidence to demonstrate how you incited, masterminded, and provoked mob violence. It is utterly absurd to believe that deploying armed rioters against state installations, Edhi ambulances, radio stations, and monuments honoring our war heroes as part of your self-serving 'save-Imran' campaign would result in any political gains for yourself," tweeted Senator Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination in response to Chairman PTI Imran Khan's allegations on Twitter.

Senator Rehman stated that the Pakistan Peoples Party had been a target of numerous politically charged persecutions over its history, but it has never resorted to attacking the country's institutions like Khan did. "Despite enduring relentless targeting from both Imran Khan and the establishment, political parties maintained their dignity while facing endless political victimization. However, Khan's recent claim that women have never been incarcerated in Pakistan before now reflects a lack of historical awareness. Meanwhile, figures like Faryal Talpur and Maryam Nawaz were imprisoned by him as if they were terrorists. Rather than working towards democratic recovery in the face of his own failures, Khan criticizes those who refuse to treat him in the same manner he has treated them."

The minister emphasized that while nobody should be subjected to humiliation, nobody should be exempted from the law either. "Imran Khan still doesn't seek the rule of law to apply to everyone uniformly. His monumental narcissism which stands exposed as a principal trigger for his action, makes him repeat egregious blunders like bad-mouthing political opponents, making it clear that he learns nothing from his mistakes.

All elected UC chairmen to be given equal funds: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that all elected UC chairmen will be given equal funds without any discrimination and we will develop all areas of Karachi equally.

He said this while presiding over a meeting with the parliamentary leaders of the city council in his office here on Monday.

The first meeting of the council has been called for July 17.

He said that all the work for the improvement of the city will be done with mutual consultation and this is the time to take everyone together so as to make KMC financially stable.

Commissioner impose ban on swimming, bathing, diving in canals/river

LARKANA (APP): Commissioner Larkana Division Ghanwar Ali Leghari on Monday imposed banned on swimming, bathing and diving in Rice Canal, Ghar Wah and Dadu Canal in Larkana district under Section 144(3) of the Criminal Procedure Code (Cr PC) 1898. According to the notification issued here, this order shall be enforced with immediate effect for Ninety (90) days, within the revenue limits of district Larkana.

Furthermore, any violation of this order shall result in an action under Section 188 Cr. PC. under Section 195(i) Cr PC 1898.

The commissioner has authorized all the SHOs of concerned police stations to take action and register FIRs against the violators, under Section 195(i) Cr PC 1898. Notification adds that the incidents of drowning of people while swimming in the Rice Canal, Ghar Wah and Dadu Canal in Larkana district, have been reported in the past years.

There is apprehension that if swimming in the Rice Canal, Ghar Wah and Dadu Canal in Larkana district is not prohibited, the incidents of drowning of people cannot be controlled, which is an apparent threat to the public life since the majority of such people are novice swimmers.

ANP expresses concern over unrest in Kurram on land dispute

PESHAWAR (APP): Awami National Party (ANP) leader Aimal Wali Khan on Monday expressed concerns over unrest and armed conflict in district Kurram over land dispute.

In a statement issued here, he demanded of the provincial government and district administration.



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

UC Chairman Salahuddin and other leaders were also present.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that before the inaugural meeting of the City Council, the purpose of the meeting with the parliamentary leaders is mutual consultation and adoption of a common policy for the development of the city.

He said that Karachi Metropolitan Corporation will be run in an excellent manner and, the process of collection of municipal utility services charges will be improved for revenue generation and for this already discussions have been held with K Electric. He said that in the past, the collection process of municipal utility service charges bills was not satisfactory due to which there was very little recovery, therefore maximum recovery will be ensured in this regard and other sources of revenue will also be improved.

He said that the common goal of all of us is to develop the city and solve the problems of the citizens as soon as possible for

Ghanaian HC invites Pakistani industrialists to invest in Ghana

KARACHI (APP): Ghana's High Commissioner to Pakistan and Iran, Eric Owusu, on Monday, invited Pakistani investors and industrialists to invest in Ghana for gaining access to the vast African market.

The Ghanaian envoy while addressing to Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI) highlighted the vast potential for industrialisation in his country and said that the government of Ghana was committed to providing favourable conditions for investment in the textile sector.

Ghana was offering various incentives, including tax benefits, to encourage the establishment of industries in the country and the availability of skilled and cost-effective labour further facilitate business ventures, he said.

By setting up industries in Ghana, Pakistani industrialists could gain access to the massive African market comprising 1.4 billion people, he said adding that goods manufactured in Ghana would enjoy duty-free exports worldwide.

President KATI Faraz-ur-Rehman speaking at the occasion affirmed that KATI would play a significant role in assisting the business community to access African markets. He emphasised the importance of the exchange of trade delegations and collaborations between Pakistan and Ghana to enhance bilateral trade.

He suggested organising a dedicated exhibition between the two countries to showcase their respective industries. He also proposed exploring currency swaps and local currency trade between Ghana and Pakistan, considering the development of both nations.

Honorary Consul General of Yemen Ikhtiar Baig urged Pakistani industrialists and investors to leverage Ghana's African policy, which includes advantages such as affordable land for setting up industries and tax concessions.

Deputy Patron-in-Chief of KATI, Zubair Chhaya, highlighted the friendly relations between Ghana and Pakistan. Highlighting low trade volume between the two nations he stressed the need to increase bilateral trade.



KARACHI: Mayor of Karachi, Murtaza Wahab addressing the inauguration ceremony of renovation of Sharah-e-Faisal at Karsaz Martyrs Memorial Hall.

Commissioner for completing all measures to deal with possible floods

SUKKUR (APP): Commissioner Sukkur, Ghulam Mustafa Phul on Monday instructed the authorities to make foolproof arrangements to deal with the possible flood-like situation in the region.

He also directed concerned officials to fully monitor the water flow in the river Sukkur and Guddu Barrages.

Presiding over a meeting at his office here, he asked the deputy commissioners of Sukkur, Khairpur, and Ghotki to personally inspect the embankments along with the officers of the Irrigation Department.

The Commissioner emphasized that the administration, police, and relevant departments should work as a team to effectively deal with natural calamities like floods.

The meeting reviewed the preparedness to cope with possible floods and urban flooding due to monsoon rains.

Special budget session of district council Larkana to be held on July 13

LARKANA (APP): A special budget session of District Council Larkana will be held on Thursday (July 13, 2023), under section 83 of Sindh Local Government Act 2013 and Sindh Council Beat Rules 2017.

The session will be presided over by the Chairman of District Council Aijaz Ahmed Leghari.

The special budget meeting of the Council will start at 10.30 am at the council meeting hall.

The Chairman of District Council will present the Budget for the fiscal year 2023-24 for the approval from the Council.

Fitch upgrades Pakistan to 'CCC', Dar greets nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Fitch Ratings has upgraded Pakistan's Long-Term Foreign-Currency Issuer Default Rating (IDR) to 'CCC' from 'CCC-', indicating a positive development towards the betterment of the country's economy Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar in a tweet said it was another positive development towards current economic revival journey.

He congratulated Prime Minister, nation, government allies and economic team for this achievement. "Global Rating Agency 'Fitch' upgrades Pakistan's Long Term Foreign-Currency rating to CCC from IDR (Issuer Default Rating)...Another positive news towards current economic revival journey... Congratulations to PM @CMShehbaz, the Nation, Govt Allies & Economic Team," the minister tweeted.

The rating agency has identified key indicators that contributed to the positive development rating for the country which include improvement in easing external financing risks. It says the upgrade reflects Pakistan's improved external liquidity and funding conditions following its Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a nine-month Stand-by Arrangement (SBA) in June.



HYDERABAD: Disabled persons hold a protest rally against non issue of offer letters and non implement on 5% disabled quota in Government departments, in City.

Violation of govt. fixed fare policy Transport Deptt. imposed fine of Rs.56600/- on 79 transport operators

Independent Report KARACHI: On the directives of Minister Information, Transport & Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon, Provincial Transport department has on Monday taken action across the province and imposed fine of Rs. 56600/- on 79 passenger-bond intercity transports, for using illegal CNG/LPG Cylinders and charging excessive fares from passengers. Under the supervision of Secretary Transport & Mass Transit Saleem Rajput, different inspection teams in the province, each led by its district Secretary RTA of Transport department along with traffic police officials are on roads and have been checking daily passenger-carrying private vehicles, running from one city to another on highways, to curb practice of using illegal CNG cylinders and charging extra fares against government rates.

On Monday, 10th July, transport department conducted action in Karachi, Sukkur, Mirpurkhas, Larkana, Badin, Khairpur, and Thatta and imposed fine worth of Rs. 56600/- on 79 vehicles and impounded 13 vehicles. In Karachi 32 vehicles were checked and imposed a fine of Rs. 16000/- on charging excessive fares from passengers and Rs. 4200/- were returned to passengers.

Newly elected Chairman Saddar Town takes oath

KARACHI (APP): Newly-elected Chairman of Town Municipal Corporation Saddar Mansoor Ahmed Sheikh took the oath of his office in the oath-taking ceremony held at the Deputy Commissioner South Office.

DC South Manzoor Ahmed Kanrani administered the oath in the presence of District Election Commissioner South Azra Mahesar.

A large number of chairmen, vice chairmen, councillors and social figures of different union councils including Saddar Town Vice Chairman Abdul Rahman Motiwala were present.

On this occasion, the newly elected Chairman was garlanded with flowers by the elected representatives of Saddar Town who congratulated him for becoming the town chairman and achieving the blessing of performing Hajj.

Speaking on this occasion, Mansoor Ahmed Sheikh said that Saddar Town is a collection of people's representatives.

We believe in democracy and have been elected by the votes of the people. Our commitment and priority are to serve the people without discrimination for which we will take everyone together and provide local government facilities to the people based on equality in the entire Saddar Town with the available resources, he said.



KARACHI: A view of the massive traffic jam at Kareemabad area due to the over parking of vehicles and bikes along the road side, which is the open sign of the negligence of traffic authority.