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Will hand over to caretaker govt in August Despite conspiracies, coalition govt brings country out of deep crisis in the shortest period: PM

Says his govt cleaned up four years of economic devastation, sacrificing politics to restore the IMF program; It is now time "stand on our own feet and gain our lost position", urges nation to "break the begging bowl"

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said despite challenges and conspiracies hatched by the political opponents, the coalition government had successfully managed to put the country in the right direction in the shortest period.

The prime minister, in his over 14-minute address to the nation, said the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme agreed by the previous government on the toughest conditions, was the biggest obstacle in the way of the country's economic revival.

The last regime had brought the country to the

brink of default by deviating from that agreement, he added.

He said ironically, the political opponents remained busy in hatching conspiracies and creating hurdles while the coalition government was trying to resume the programme.

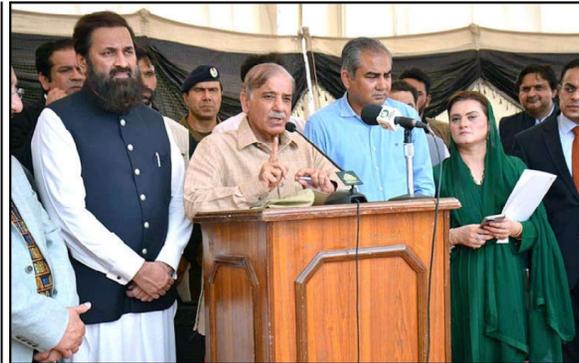
The incumbent government had to face the biggest challenges and conspiracies in Pakistan's democratic history in the shortest period, and steered it out of the deep crisis, he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said the coalition government was going to end in August on completing its tenure and

would hand over the reins to the caretaker set up.

"During the short period of one and a quarter years, due to our collective wisdom and prudent policies, we cleared the debris and economic landmines laid by the previous government," he added.

He said the period of his government was a journey of moving from the destruction towards construction, economic stability, helping the flood affected people, providing maximum employment to the jobless and relief to the people hit by inflation, and revival of freedom of speech, media freedom and national integration.



MULTAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif expressing his views after visiting under construction Nishtar II Hospital.

President calls for prevention, early diagnosis of life threatening diseases

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Thursday called for prevention and early diagnosis of diseases like breast cancer and water borne ailments to give people a chance to live longer healthy lives.

Speaking virtually at an awareness programme arranged by Siemens Healthineers, he underlined the need for improvements in the health and education sectors of Pakistan.

Despite the limited resources a developing country like Pakistan should give priority to health and education of the people, he stressed.

The president said preventive measures and widespread awareness were vital to prepare the people against the onslaught of life threatening diseases.

He said Pakistan had

an experience of effectively and successfully tackling Covid-19 as compared to the neighbouring country where the death rate was higher.

Spreading of awareness among the people was critical to keep Covid under control, he said, adding the people followed the advice of the government to wear masks, keep distance and take preventive measures helping the country eventually overcome the challenge.

The president urged the people to ensure cleanliness to stop the spread of communicable diseases.

Religious scholars could play an important role by teaching the significance of hygiene during their sermons in mosques, he continued.

SC fixes case regarding army court for hearing

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Thursday fixed July 18, a date to hear the cases pertaining to the trials of rioters of May 9, in military courts.

A six-member bench of the top court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial would take up the cases for further hearing.

The court served notices to all respondents regarding the next date of hearing.

The court also fixed cases for hearing on July 21, regarding Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill 2023.

An eight-member bench of the top court headed by the chief justice would take up the case for hearing.

Sindh, Iran to work together in medical, transport sectors

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah and Consul General of Iran Hasan Nourian discussed cooperation between Sindh and Iran in health and transport sectors here at CM House on Thursday.

Under the plan, the provincial Health Department will conduct a short training course on entomological surveillance of dengue fever vectors for the entomological expert delegation from Zahedan University of Medical Sciences, an expert team from the health department of Sindh would visit ZAUMS in order to exchange experiences and explore areas for cooperation regarding beta thalassaemia control program in Iran.

The Medical doctors and specialists with experience in the treatment of patients with dengue fever will conduct a training workshop on the diagnosis, treatment, and nursing care of dengue fever in Zahedan, Iran.

The CM Sindh said that the virtual, and in-person expert meetings would be held in order to exchange



ISLAMABAD: The newly-appointed envoys of the Philippines, Iran and Rwanda presenting their diplomatic credentials to President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Secretary General PHF calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Secretary General of Pakistan Hockey Federation Syed Haider Hussain Thursday called on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here.

Promotion of hockey, organization of Olympic qualifying tournament and other issues were discussed in the meeting.

The Governor said that holding the international hockey competitions in Pakistan after many

years was a welcoming sign and said taking measures to promote the national sport was imperative at the moment.

The SG PHF said that Olympic qualifying matches will be held in January next year in which eight teams from the world will participate.

He added that all possible measures are being taken to promote the national game.

Pak gets 1.2bn from IMF as a first tranche under new deal

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Thursday transferred US\$1.2 billion to State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) out of total \$3 billion under the Stand-By Agreement (SBA) that was approved by the IMF board the previous day.

Talking to media persons, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar said that the balance amount of \$1.8 billion would be provided after two reviews that would be held in November 2023 and February 2024. The finance minister said that the IMF funds would help improve foreign exchange reserves, adding that in total around \$4.2 billion were added to the country's reserves during the week.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves rise above \$ 9.83 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan rise to US\$ 9,838.5 million as of July 07, 2023 while inflows of \$ 4.2 billion were received from Saudi Arabia, UAE and IMF to be incorporated in the central bank's reserves report in the coming week.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that foreign reserves held by the central bank increased by US\$ 61 million to US\$ 4,524.0 million as of July 07, 2023.



KARACHI: A delegation of Abu Dhabi Ports UAE led by Consul General Bakheet Ateeq Al Remeithi call on Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Citizens, authorities concerned to remain watchful amid new monsoon spell start: Sherry

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday urged the citizens and authorities concerned to remain watchful amid start of new spell of monsoon.

The federal minister took to Twitter to share the update as the new spell of monsoon season had commenced.

Senator Rehman said that rains with thunder-showers were likely in dif-

ferent areas of Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan and Kashmir. "This new wave of monsoon is likely to continue till July 17. In the meantime, instructions have also been issued to all concerned institutions to remain alert," she said.

The minister added that from July 13 to 17, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Gujranwala and Lahore were expected to face flooding in low-lying areas due to heavy rain.

ATC issues bailable arrest warrants of Imran, Shibli others

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has issued bailable arrest warrants of chairman PTI, Shibli Faraz, Farrukh Habib, Hassan Niazi and others.

The court while issuing bailable arrest warrants of the accused has directed them to appear in person before it on July 19.

PTI chairman did not appear in ATC.

The court while rejecting the exemption plea issued bailable arrest warrants.

The court also issued bailable arrest warrants of Shibli Faraz, Farrukh Habib, Hassan Niazi and other leaders in judicial complex riots case.

Haji Gulbar elected CM GB

GILGIT-BALTISTAN (Online): Haji Gulbar has been elected as Chief Minister (CM) Gilgit-Baltistan (GB).

The GB Assembly on Thursday elected Haji Gulbar as new chief minister of the province.

He has been elected as CM with the support of 19 members of GB assembly.

Speaker GB has announced success of Haji Gulbar as CM GB in the polls. Haji Gulbar enjoyed the support of PPP and PML-N.

Haji Gulbar was elected as member of GB assembly in 2020 on PTI ticket. He remained health minister.

Delegation of Ulemas meet IGP Sindh

KARACHI (APP): A delegation of Ulemas/Zakireen met Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon at the Central Police Office (CPO) Karachi on Thursday. The meeting discussed in detail the contingency plan to be arranged from 1st Muharram to Ashura and later on Chehlum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A.) and presented their suggestions.

The participants of the delegation expressed their full satisfaction with the preparation of the fool-proof contingency plan by the police this year and the overall security measures adopted under it and assured their full cooperation to the police. On the occasion, the delegation also informed about the problems faced by the processions on the roads affected by development works.

The delegation also assured that they will not only nurture the atmosphere of mutual affection, unity, and brotherhood but also

strengthen mutual relations by promoting initiatives like inter-school harmony. IGP Sindh instructed Zonal DIGs and District SSPs of Karachi that under the Muharram Contingency Plan security should be made foolproof for 1st Muharram to Ashura. In this regard, special focus should be placed on the coordination with Pakistan Rangers Sindh and other law enforcement agencies/intelligence agencies.

While the suggestions and consultations offered by the Shia scholars/Zakireen should also be included in the Muharram Contingency Plan, said the Sindh Police chief.

In addition, he said the ban on the proscribed organizations will continue.

Ghulam Nabi Memon directed the DIGP Security and Emergency Response Maqsood Memon to make the overall security measures of prominent personalities/religious leaders more extraordinary.



KARACHI: Muhammad Qasim Soomro Secretary Health for the Government of Sindh distribute Devices for Newborn Hearing Screening to doctor during Newborn Hearing Screening Theoretical and Practical Workshop Training programme donate by Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) at Koohi Goth Hospital in Provincial Capital.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Iranian Consul General Mr. Hassan Nourian here at CM House.

Shehbaz Sharif says: Instead of serving humanity, PTI doing revenge politics

MULTAN (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif said that previous government did nothing except repeating rhetoric of bandits, thieves.

Where is the justice in doing politics on projects of public interests?

He expressed his views while talking to media on his visit to under-construction Nishtar-2 Hospital in Multan equipped with international medical facilities.

He said that those who brought Chairman PTI on their shoulders would have got this hospital completed by his government but what happened after that is history.

Now this hospital will be completed on September 30. He said that PTI

government had wasted 4 years by not releasing funds.

The last 4 years were grossly neglected which is less to be condemned.

The suffering humanity was waiting for the completion of the hospital but previous government had not issued funds even to hospitals.

He said that humanitarian service was stopped due to vindictive politics in PTI government. Shehbaz Sharif said that people are going to their graves due to lack of treatment. But politics is going on here.

There can be no more heinous act than this. There were trillion of rupees but he could have built a hospital had he not wasted time in unproductive engineering.



ISLAMABAD: Attorney General of Pakistan Mr. Anwar Mansoor Usman Awan call on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Asharf.

Kashmiris observe 92nd Kashmir Martyrs Day

MIRPUR (AJK) Kashmiris living on both sides of the Line of Control, besides the rest of the world, observed the 92nd Kashmir Martyrs Day on Thursday with the renewal of the pledge to continue the grand mission of the Kashmiri martyrs through continuing the freedom struggle, with full vigour, for the achievement of the birth-right of self-determination.

They paid glorious tributes to the martyrs of Jammu & Kashmir including 22 valiant sons of the soil for laying down the supreme sacrifices.

About 92 years ago on this day (July 13) in 1931 in front of Central Jail Srinagar raised mutiny by laying the foundation stone of the movement for the liberation of the motherland from the despotic Dogra Maharajah's rule.

Special prayer meetings and symposiums were the hallmark of the Kashmir Martyrs Day across AJK as well as at various places in the strife-torn Indian Illegally Occupied

Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) and the rest of the world to observe the day.

It was on this day in 1931 when the Dogra troops shot dead 23 Kashmiris in front of the Central Jail Srinagar. A large number of people had gathered outside the jail protesting against the trial of a young man - Abdul Qadeer for treason inside the prison located in the high-security zone. In AJK, it was a state holiday to facilitate the people to participate in the events of the day from all over the liberated territory.

This year too, the Kashmir Martyrs Day was flanked by a sign of new hope, that if India agrees to the ground realities without any reservations and learns a lesson from the historical facts that she (New Delhi) cannot rule Kashmir at gunpoint, may help bring lasting peace and prosperity in the region through the early peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in line with the aspirations of the people.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Election time

Has the PDM government formally decided to quit office in the first half of August? It would appear so from the remarks Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif made on Wednesday during a function in the capital where he sought to rectify his earlier slip-up of mentioning Aug 14 as the last day of the current National Assembly.

A day earlier, the premier had held a meeting with the chief of the PDM coalition, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in which the latter reportedly stressed that elections in the country needed to be held on time.

The prime minister's whirlwind meeting with Mr Rehman had followed a high-level huddle between the senior leadership of the PPP and PML-N in Dubai, to which the JUI-F chief, much to his chagrin, had not been invited.

The Dubai huddle, aimed at deciding candidates for the caretaker set-up and a possible seat adjustment formula for the upcoming elections, failed to achieve "anything final", according to PPP leaders.

Nonetheless, the PML-N has now indicated when their coalition arrangement is due to expire. This clears up some of the uncertainty about the path forward: the PDM government, at least, will not overstay its welcome.

It is intriguing, however, that the prime minister desisted from providing even a rough timeline for when the next general elections could be held, leaving the matter to the Election Commission of Pakistan.

Technically, the ECP is the relevant authority empowered to announce the election schedule, but its conduct with respect to the elections to the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab assemblies — repeatedly delayed in violation of the Constitution — gives rise to justified fears that the path to the next polls may not be straightforward at all. It is now up to the ECP to clear the air completely. There have been rumours that whatever caretaker set-up is brought in to take the reins from the PDM government may stay on for longer than two or three months, much like the KP and Punjab interim governments, which have continued in office long after their respective tenures expired.

If something like this transpires, it would be antithetical to the entire raison d'être of the ECP. The law minister recently argued during a television show that no power on earth could compel the ECP to set a date for any election, even if the ECP is clearly in violation of the law of the land. Does his twisted logic betray the true intentions of the state? One hopes that the country will not be taken along on another misadventure. The country desperately needs an empowered government formed after a free and fair election to take it forward. Any move to thwart this will only be seen as another blatant subversion of its constitutional order.

Vacuous governance



F.S. Aijazuddin

Are Pakistanis justified in regarding Islamabad as superfluous to their governance?

Do they need a president? The present incumbent perches in a gilded cage, his wings clipped by the 18th Amendment. Even his power to stall approval to legislation has been circumscribed by the government. It waited until he went on Hajj and then got an acting president to sign off in his stead.

Do they need such an obese cabinet? At the last count (March 2023), it comprised "34 federal ministers, seven ministers of state, four advisers to the prime minister and 39 special assistants to the prime minister", making it perhaps the largest mute chorus since independence.

Save for some voluble ministers to whom publicity is akin to oxygen, what do all these personages do except act as a paid clique whenever the lead tenor sings his solos at cabinet meetings? When was the last time the public heard from their ministers of Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety, or National Health Services, Regulations & Coordination, or National Food Security and Research, or Science and Technology, or Inter-Provincial Coordination? Their vow of silence would be better served in a Trappist monastery.

Does the country need 342 MNAs and 100 senators when, like the pope, they have no legions to enforce their writ? Nothing could illustrate the degree of parliament's emasculation better than the recent exchange between the

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Conventionally, the PAC is headed by the Leader of the Opposition. Technically, it should function as a watchdog and occasionally the bloodhound of our national finances. Its bite should be more fearful than its bark.

Similarly, the State Bank is autonomous, charged with overseeing the nation's financial sector. It has formidable punitive powers. Instead, it has become an apologist for well-connected borrowers.

According to a report of the PAC/SBP meeting on July 5, "it was disclosed that during the PTI government's tenure, textile, cement, tyre and auto industries took \$3 billion [in rupee equivalent] in loans under the refinancing scheme at a five per cent interest rate".

The PAC asked the governor SBP for details of the 620 people who had taken loans on such "sweetheart" terms. It was told that private banks had provided almost 85pc of the financing, the textile sector at 42pc being the major beneficiary.

When pressed to disclose the names of specific borrowers, the governor SBP replied that while he had the list of borrowers, the details of the loans were "confidential between the banks and customers". He added that "instead of making the list of borrowers public, it would be appropriate to hold an in-camera briefing of the committee". The PAC obligingly agreed.

Whose interests, one may ask, are the SBP and PAC safeguarding? Those of innocent depositors, or of the 620 borrowers too shy to have their names made public? The amount lent to these 620 borrowers is equal in dollar terms to the \$3bn stand-by facility made miraculously available by the IMF.

Understandably, the local IMF staff — before taking the matter to their board — sought assurances from the major political parties that this facility had their broadest ownership, since some will form the next government and the rest carp from the opposition.

This unprecedented initiative by the IMF flies in the face of its declared neutrality, "not to favour any political party but to negotiate with whichever party forms the next government". Hitherto, governments have complained that IMF's insistence on political stability as a quasi-condition amounted "to interference in the country's internal affairs". Today, the government is silent on the IMF's novel outreach to its impatient opponents.

Has anyone in the IMF, though, considered whether these "summer promises" are binding. Will they be honoured after the post-election winter sets in, and by whom?

While no one would fault the IMF or other lenders (the Saudis, the UAE and the Chinese) for wanting to protect their money, surely what matters is not who today promises to repay, but if elected how and when? Remember, elections can be tricky, unpredictable things. Winston Churchill won World War II for the Brits in 1945, then lost the general election months later. Will the next parliament try to assert its sovereignty and demand a say in the IMF deal? Some believe that Pakistan forfeited that sovereignty decades ago when, in 1955, it agreed to join the US-led Baghdad Pact (later Cento). Others believe the erosion of its sovereignty, like global warming, will remain an ongoing process.

When \$3bn equivalent can be lent by local banks to 620 faceless borrowers, and \$3bn is having to be borrowed by the state from the IMF, Pakistanis deserve something better than vacuous governance from Islamabad. -- Courtesy Dawn

Unemployment crisis: Balochistan's educated youth struggle for opportunities



By Hamza Shahzad

Balochistan's educated youth are increasingly feeling exasperated and desperate, as years of university education are no assurance of acquiring a job. With mounting inflation, this catastrophe is also distressing their mental health.

Of the 25,000 students who graduated from different universities in Balochistan in 2021, only 2,000 were able to secure a job. According to the Pakistan Labor Force Study 2021, Balochistan has the highest redundancy rate in the country. Despite its latent status, Balochistan has always lagged behind other provinces across most development-related metrics.

In recent times, the status of the province has deteriorated because of a rising dearth and youth unemployment rate, with the latter currently standing at 4.3 per cent. The foremost motives for youth unemployment in Balochistan are negligence of resources, a lack of digital or technical skills, and a lack of job opportunities and business programs.

In Balochistan, most governmental vacancies have been kept unfilled for years, and in recent times, the number of these vacancies has only in-

creased. Given the incapacitating youth unemployment rates, these jobs have created anxiety and anger. An average of 6,000 applicants appear every year for a single government job opening. Recently, there has been a rise in the number of reported suicides in Balochistan. According to an NGO that supervises human rights in Balochistan, 56 people were reported to have committed suicide in 2022 alone.

To tackle the hazard of joblessness and to provide opportunities for these sophisticated young men and women to flourish fiscally and also safeguard their peace of mind, the Balochistan government has arranged 3,000 internships in numerous sections out of 8,000 in the Prime Minister's Empowered Youth Program.

Apart from this, Google has also increased scholarships for the youth of Balochistan from 1,000 to 3,000, empowering them to support themselves. So far, 961 students, including 462 males and 279 females, have joined the package.

Recently, 60,000 paid internships for fresh graduates were announced by the Government of Balochistan in Provincial Departments.

Google, in collaboration with District Administration Kech, has announced 500 Career certificate scholarships solely for the esteemed Youth of Kech.

The government is the major employer, providing employment to hundreds of thousands of people at di-

verse levels. Presently, there are 295,000 staff in different government branches. The Education department has the highest number of employees with 67,732, followed by 49,000 in the Police department and 32,987 in the Health department. These 60,000 announced internship opportunities are the prime hope for the hundreds of thousands of jobless, educated youth in Balochistan.

The Chief Minister of Balochistan, The Chief Secretary, and the secretaries of the concerned departments should be praised for their keen interest in resolving this concern of the youth. Such steps will not only create a sense of ownership in the youth but also keep them away from negative activities. Along with these internship opportunities, the government should introduce Basic restructurings at the necessary level in all levels of institutions, mostly at the bachelor's level, to cultivate and enable our youth to realize market prospects. Beside this, the education institutes should also introduce and involve the students in various skill growth programs to intensify their skill set.

Likewise, self-employment through freelancing and entrepreneurship, which offers an extensive variety of job opportunities, should be stimulated at the district level by the local government by introducing various training and skill development programs to extend the visualization of youth and instantly solve the problem of unemployment.

Commerce News

IT Ministry signs agreement to enhance connectivity in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information Technology has embarked on two significant projects worth Rs. 69.8 billion to bolster connectivity in Balochistan province.

Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Amin-ul-Haque and Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch here on Thursday jointly initiated the execution of these projects.

The agreements were

signed by USF CEO Haaris Chaudhary and Ufone's Chief Executive Officer Hatem Bamtraf.

The projects, funded through the Universal Service Fund via Ufone, aim to provide the fastest connectivity to commuters and residents along the motorway.

The first project will involve an investment of Rs. 47.82 billion in laying 478 kilometers of optical fiber cable, linking Gwadar, Quetta, Awaran, Khuzdar, Jhal Magsi, Qambar

Shahdadkot, and Larkana. The second project, costing Rs. 19.6 billion, will offer broadband services to 34,000 individuals in 47 villages surrounding Sabi.

On the occasion, Amin-ul-Haque said, the projects will be completed in 18 months with funding from the Universal Service Fund through Ufone.

The minister said, the project aims to provide the fastest connectivity to commuters and populations residing along

the motorway. He highlighted that in the past four years, 83 broadband projects worth Rs. 77 billion were initiated nationwide.

These initiatives reflect the government's commitment to expanding broadband infrastructure in Balochistan, with numerous projects already underway across the province. Moreover, 21 broadband projects worth Rs. 27.12 billion have been launched in 30 districts of Balochistan.



MULTAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif distributes cheques among the successful candidates who received loans under Prime Minister's Youth Loan Scheme.



LAHORE: Women participating in the Dastkar Mela organized by Punjab Small Industry at the local hotel.

China major export market for Pakistani products: Moin Haque

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that China is a major export market for Pakistani products, and we are working together to further enhance the access of Pakistani products to the untapped sectors of the Chinese markets," he said while talking to The Nation and Nawa-i-Waqt dailies.

The ambassador said Pakistan takes pride in its special friendship with China which is time-tested and timeless. "Our

largest trading partner, China is a major export market for Pakistani products, and we are working together to further enhance the access of Pakistani products to the untapped sectors of the Chinese markets," he said while talking to The Nation and Nawa-i-Waqt dailies.

The ambassador said Pakistan takes pride in its special friendship with China which is time-tested and timeless. "Our

relations with China are based on strong political support, strategic trust and practical cooperation.

A heart-to-heart relationship between our two peoples enjoying support across the political spectrum. No wonder, this friendship remains the cornerstone of our foreign policy."

Ambassador said that China has recently lifted its Covid-related travel restrictions and opened up international travel.

WCCI organizes women handicraft bazaar

HYDERABAD (APP): The Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WCCI) Hyderabad Division has organized a two-day women's handicraft bazaar here on the premises of Public School Latifabad.

The objective of organizing the handicraft bazaar from July 11 to 12, 2023 was to promote the talent of women artisans of rural parts of Sindh including Hyderabad, Badin, Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar, Hala and Jamhoro, the founder President WCCI Hyderabad Division Beenish Iftikhar Qadri on

Thursday said in a press release. She said over 40 stalls of various items including furniture, crockery and art work were displayed in the two-day handicraft bazaar which was highly appreciated by the visitors. On the directives of President Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Adeel Siddiqui, a delegation of HCCI led by Senior Vice President Najamuddin Qureshi also visited the handicraft bazaar and appreciated the efforts of the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hyderabad Division for promoting the talent.

FCCI delegation calls on Punjab governor

LAHORE (APP): A delegation from the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), led by President Dr. Khuram Tariq, called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at the Governor's House, here on Thursday.

The governor, speaking on the occasion, said that the country's economy is improving due to the prudent policies of the government and foreign

investment is also increasing. The governor said traders and industrialists are backbone of a country's economy, adding that the PML-N government has always taken steps to facilitate business community and solved their problems on priority basis. Governor Punjab said that the government is taking all possible measures for the development of trade and industry.

Rupee gains Rs1.98 against dollar after IMF approves \$3bn deal

KARACHI (INP): The rupee grew stronger Thursday against the US dollar during early trading on the back of approval given by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to the stand-by arrangement (SBA).

Soon after the inter-bank trading started at 9:30am, the local currency gained Rs2.50 against the greenback but later settled to a Rs1.98 increase by the time this report was filed at 10:15am.

Bilal Azhar says: \$4.2 billion credited to Pakistan in 3 days

ISLAMABAD (INP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Thursday said that \$4.2 billion have been credited to Pakistan in last 3 days from Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Giving breakup figures, the coordinator tweeted that \$2 billion were received from Saudi

Arabia, \$1 billion from UAE and \$1.2 billion from IMF.

He said that Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar has shared that State Bank of Pakistan has received US \$1.2 billion from IMF, following the approval of the US\$3 billion Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) by the IMF Executive Board the previous day.

IMF agreement to help boosting Pakistan's economy: President KATI

KARACHI (APP): President of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry (KATI), Faraz-ur-Rehman on Thursday said that agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) would bring stability to the economy and enhance fiscal capacity of the government.

President KATI, in a statement issued here, highlighted the positive impact of receiving immediate financial assistance, including \$1.2 billion from the IMF

and \$2 billion from Saudi Arabia and said that it helped stabilise Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves.

He emphasized that the IMF agreement had successfully averted the risk of default, providing a much-needed boost to the country's economy while the aid package of over \$8 billion from various other countries would further bolster Pakistan's foreign exchange reserves and strengthen value of the national currency.

PM gets briefing on Nishtar-II hospital, commends Naqvi, team

MULTAN (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here on Thursday visited the site of Nishtar-II hospital to check the status of mega tertiary healthcare project worth Rs 9450 million and praise Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his team for their untiring efforts that made the OPD operational and formal completion in sight, by September 30, 2023.

Soon after his arrival at Multan International airport, the prime minister reached the Nishtar-II hospital site where he received briefing from CEO Infrastructure Development Authority of Punjab (IDAP) and was informed that the project was initiated on December 29, 2019 carrying a cost of Rs 9450 million at a spacious 456

Kanal area and so far Rs 7430 million funding had been utilized, about 79 per cent of the total cost. PM Shehbaz Sharif commended the health secretary Punjab Ali Jan Khan, Commissioner Multan engineer Amir Khatak, IDAP CEO and all relevant department who did hard work to make another most advanced tertiary healthcare facility that would benefit people of Multan, rest of south Punjab besides nearby districts of Sindh and Balochistan.

The prime minister said, the machinery had arrived and expressed his desire for completion of the project as per the schedule. Shehbaz Sharif later told media persons that a lot space was available around the project site and added that he would talk

to the chief minister to develop a medical city there. After the briefing, the prime minister accompanying CM Naqvi visited the Nishtar-II OPD where he talked to some patients and enquired after their health and the level of facilities being provided.

MNA Ahmad Hussain Dehar, on this occasion, thanked the prime minister for providing Nishtar-II facility and described it as a gift for Multanites. "We had lost hope that project would see the light of the day. But with your support, this project will complete soon," he added. Earlier before the arrival of the prime minister, Mohsin Naqvi visited the Nishtar-II, visited its different sections and reviewed the pace of progress.



MULTAN: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif visits the under-construction Nishtar II Hospital.

Minister inaugurates 'Dastkar Mela'

Independent Report
LAHORE: Provincial Minister for Information and Local Government Amir Mir has emphasized the potential of promoting handicrafts at the international fora to generate foreign exchange for the country.

He acknowledged the remarkable craftsmanship of artisans from Pakistan, Iran, Turkiye and Afghanistan whose products were cherished worldwide. Pakistani artisans create awe-inspiring items ranging from Ajrak to carpets, salt, and clay crafts. The Dastkar Mela provides a platform for artisans and craftsmen to showcase the essence of their art.

Addressing the opening ceremony of Dastkar Mela 2023 organized by the Punjab Small Industries Corporation at a local hotel on Wednesday, the minister commended the event and felicitated MD PSIC and the organizers.

He highlighted the significance of promoting talented artisans, noting that the government and the chief minister attach great importance to the artisan fair.

Australian High Commissioner calls on KP CM

PESHAWAR (APP): Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins on Thursday called on Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan here at the CM house.

Both sides discussed issues of mutual interest and agreed to extend cooperation in various sectors.

Speaking on the occasion the KP CM said that the provincial government wanted foreign investment in health, education, tourism, industry and other sectors and gave several incentives to the foreign investors in this regard.

CM discusses proposal to develop urban park

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi chaired a meeting at his office to assess the progress of restoring 12 historic gates and to discuss the proposal of developing an urban park, similar to Greater Iqbal Park, near the mausoleums of Noor Jahan and Jahangir in the city.

DG Walled City of Lahore Authority gave a briefing on the restoration of historic buildings. Instructing the WCLA, the CM emphasized the importance of setting a timeline for the restoration of the historic gates. He stressed the need to initiate the work promptly to restore the gates to their original condition and eliminate encroachments. He directed to contact LESCO to lay underground electricity cables.

The CM issued orders for the immediate removal of wall chalking and banners from the historic buildings and instructed the restoration of the Mariam Zamani Begum Mosque, located opposite Lahore Fort. Under a phased program, the experts from WCLA will finalize the restoration plans for Lahore's historic gates, including Taxali, Lohari, Shah Alami, Mochi, Akbari, Delhi, Yaki, Roshnai, Sheranwala, Masti Gate, and others.



GILGIT: Secretary Finance Gilgit-Baltistan Faisal Pirzada presenting copy of Budget 2023-24 to Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah at Governor Secretariat.

Consultative conference held for LEAs

LAHORE (APP): A consultative conference was held for law enforcement agencies on strategic planning for HIV-affected persons with the support of UNDP.

In the conference, the challenges for prevention of HIV infection, care and rehabilitation of infected persons, obstacles and recent initiatives were discussed.

IG Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar was the chief guest of the concluding session of the conference.

In the concluding session, the need to adopt a common strategy for prevention of AIDS, discouraging hateful attitudes towards the affected persons and treatment was emphasized.

Health screening of personnel has been done, vaccination and modern treatment of hepatitis C and B police personnel are ongoing, said IG Punjab. He added that steps have been taken to protect the cops from HIV infection.

He said that Tahaffuz centers have been established to provide protection to transgender and women victims of exploitation. Over 7200 complaints of citizens, including transgender, have been resolved in 37 Tahaffuz centers, said Dr. Usman Anwar.



PESHAWAR: Monks from different countries visit Peshawar Museum to see the remains of Buddha's.

Establishment of FATA University gift for tribal youth: JUIF leader

PESHAWAR (APP): The central leader of Jamiat Ulema Islam (F) and Member of the National Assembly James Iqbal on Thursday welcome the establishment of FATA University by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and termed it a gift for the young generation of tribal areas.

In his statement issued here, he said that the Prime Minister has adorned the tribal youth with the jewel of education, adding that the step would ensure peace, development, and prosperity in the tribal districts. James Iqbal who was also President of Parliamentarians Forum Pakistan, demanded the government to immediately change the name of FATA University in consultation with the tribal elders.

One killed three injured in police shooting

PESHAWAR (APP): A man died and three critically injured in a police shooting on a vehicle here on ring road.

According to police, the vehicle was signaled to stop at a police picket but the driver sped up the car in a bid to escape. The police personnel on duty opened fire at the car, as a result of which one of the four passengers in the vehicle belonging to Dara Adam Khel was killed. The other persons on board received critical bullet injuries and shifted to Lady Reading Hospital (LRH). The condition of one of the injured was also reported critical, the police informed, adding that the identity of the four persons was being ascertained.

Maulana Azad for promoting peace during Moharram-ul-Haram

BAHAWALPUR (INP): Chairman Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee Maulana Syed Abdul Khabeer Azad has said that maintaining peace during Moharram-ul-Haram was the collective responsibility of Ulema from all sects. He said that the promotion of Pakistan's ideology and Ittehad Bainu-Muslimeen was the need of the hour. The Ulema of Pakistan stand with Pakistan's Armed forces for the prosperity and peace of Pakistan, he said while addressing a gathering of Ulema from various schools of thoughts who visited Bahawalpur under the leadership of Maulana Abdul Khabeer Azad for promoting peace and harmony during Moharram-ul-Haram. He said that Ulema should stick to their sect and avoid criticizing other sects. He said that Ulema strongly condemned the Israeli resolution against Pakistan in Geneva.

Commissioner Bahawalpur Division Dr. Ehtesham Anwar, Deputy Commissioner Bahawalpur Zaheer Anwar Jappa, Deputy Commissioner Rahim Yar Khan Shakeel Ahmed Bhatti, Assistant Commissioners, Police Officers, officers from Awqaf Department.

3 killed in road accident

FAISALABAD (APP): Three persons were killed in different road accidents in Faisalabad during the past 12 hours.

A spokesperson for Rescue-1122 said here on Thursday that 40-year-old Mumtaz Ahmad of People's Colony was crossing the road near Khurrianwala Chowk on Faisalabad Road when a speeding van hit and killed him. Also, 50-year-old Saifur-Rehman of Kot Addu was killed when his car collided with a trailer in its rear due to over-speeding near Samsundri Interchange on Lahore-Multan Motorway (M-3).

International News

West offers security assurances to frustrated Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
VILNIUS: The United States and global allies unveiled new security assurances for Ukraine at a Nato summit, designed to bolster the country's defences against Russia over the long haul while Kyiv strives for membership in the alliance.

Members of the world's most powerful military bloc offered the prospect of long-term protection a day after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky decried as "absurd" a refusal to offer an invitation or timetable for Ukraine's entry into Nato.

Instead, a declaration by the G7 group of the world's most industrialised

countries launched a framework for bilateral negotiations to provide military and financial support, intelligence sharing and a promise of immediate steps if Russia should attack again.

"Our support will last long into the future. It's a powerful statement of our commitment to Ukraine," President Joe Biden said alongside Zelensky and leaders of the G7, which is made up of the US, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. "We're going to be there as long as that takes."

Swallowing his disappointment over the lack of a membership timetable, Zelensky called the out-

come a "meaningful success" following a flurry of announcements of military aid for Kyiv. "Today there are security guarantees for Ukraine on the way to Nato," he said. "The Ukraine delegation is bringing home a significant security victory for Ukraine."

Zelensky said he would raise Ukraine's need for long-range weapons at a meeting with Biden at the summit. At a bilateral meeting, Biden promised Zelensky the US was doing everything it could to meet Ukraine's needs and acknowledged Zelensky's frustration about the scale and speed at which he was receiving support.

"Your resilience and your resolve has been a model for the whole world to see," Biden said. "I look forward to the day when we're having the meeting celebrating your official, official membership in Nato. The bad news for you is, we're not going anywhere. You're stuck with us," Biden joked, prompting laughter from Zelensky.

Asked by a reporter how soon after the war he would like Ukraine to join Nato, Biden responded "an hour and 20 minutes". US national security adviser Jake Sullivan said Biden would offer Zelensky long-range missiles when they met.



US President Joe Biden, Japan's PM Fumio Kishida, British PM Rishi Sunak, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, Italian PM Giorgia Meloni, France's President Emmanuel Macron, President of the European Council Charles Michel, European Commission President Ursula von Leyen and Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pose for a family photo, as they attend an event with G7 leaders as the NATO summit is held in Vilnius, Lithuania.



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi is welcomed by Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa, at Harare airport in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Iranian president arrives in Zimbabwe to anti-West songs for the last stop on a rare Africa trip

Monitoring Desk
HARARE: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was welcomed in Zimbabwe on Thursday by people singing songs criticizing the West as he arrived on what's expected to be the last stop of his three-nation Africa trip.

Raisi was greeted at Harare's international airport by Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who thanked the Iranian

Thailand's Pita defeated in parliament in bid for PM

Monitoring Desk
BANGKOK: Thailand's Pita Limjaroenrat failed on Thursday in his initial bid to become Thailand's next prime minister, after he was thwarted in a high-stakes parliamentary vote that included a host of no-shows and nearly 200 abstentions.

The leader of election winners Move Forward was unopposed in the contest but struggled to muster the required support of more than half of 749-member.

EU helping UN, Turkey in bid to extend Black Sea grain deal

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The European Commission is helping the United Nations and Turkey try to extend a deal allowing the Black Sea export of Ukraine grain - that could expire on Monday - and is open to "explore all solutions," a European Union spokesperson said on Thursday.

The EU is considering connecting a subsidiary of the Russian Agricultural Bank (Rosselkhozbank) to the international payment network SWIFT to allow for grain and fertilizer transactions, sources familiar with discussions told Reuters on Wednesday.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres proposed in a letter to Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday that Moscow allow the Black Sea grain deal to continue for several months to give the EU time to connect a Rosselkhozbank subsidiary to SWIFT, two of those sources familiar with discussions told Reuters.

ASEAN struggles for unity on Myanmar conflict

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Finding unity over how to deal with Myanmar's junta continued to evade Southeast Asian nations on Thursday, as foreign ministers meeting in Jakarta struggled to agree on a communique that would include a reference to their neighbour's internal strife.

Gathered in the Indonesian capital for their annual meeting, foreign ministers from the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had been expected to issue a joint communique on Wednesday, but by late afternoon on Thursday there was still no sign of it. The cause of the delay was unclear but an ASEAN official said a communique was being finalised and would be released soon.

ASEAN, which includes Myanmar among its 10 members, has pushed, without success, for the implementation of a five-point peace plan agreed with the junta shortly after a coup in early 2021.

Russia issues nuclear threat, hits Kyiv as Nato vows support for Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia responded strongly after members of the Nato alliance pledged support for Kyiv against Moscow's aggression on the country, striking several cities, while threatening to "send F-16 fighter jets capable of carrying nuclear bombs".

According to Kyiv, Moscow conducted an aerial assault on Ukraine, resulting in the destruction of 20 Russian attack drones and two cruise missiles.

The capital witnessed major destruction, with four people injured as confirmed by the city's mayor.

Expressing its displeasure for Western support, Russia declared that it would view the F-16 fighter jets sent to Ukraine as a "nuclear" threat due to their capability to carry atomic bombs.

In a sign of its anger at Western backing for Kyiv, Moscow said it would regard F-16 fighter jets sent to Ukraine as a "nuclear" threat because of their capacity to carry atomic bombs. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov

emphasised that Russia could not overlook the potential nuclear capabilities of these aircraft, dismissing any assurances provided by the West.

Taking the lead in a coalition of 11 nations, the Netherlands and Denmark have initiated a plan to train Ukrainian pilots in operating the US fighter jets, following authorisation from Washington. Since the Russian special military operation against Ukraine in February 2022, such threats have been earlier made. President Biden's visit to Helsinki followed the G7 countries' commitment to support Ukraine until it defeats Russia. During his visit, the 80-year-old President is to meet with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto, whose country shares a 1,300-kilometer (800-mile) border with Russia and abandoned its historical military non-alignment after Russia entered Ukraine.

In addition to Niinisto and Finnish Prime Minister Petteri Orpo, Biden will also discuss issues regarding security, environment, and technology with leaders

from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland to explore cooperation between the Nordic countries and the US. This visit was the first time a US president has visited Helsinki since Donald Trump's summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin five years ago. During the Cold War time alliance summit, members apparently disappointed President Volodymyr Zelensky by not providing a clear timeline for Ukraine's membership in the group, stating that an invitation would only be extended when "certain conditions are met".

Instead, the G7 nations offered Ukraine a package of long-term security commitments through bilateral agreements with Kyiv and the world's rich nations.

While speaking at the Nato summit, Joe Biden aimed to display resolve to Putin after his meeting with Zelensky, stating, "we will not waver." He emphasised that Putin's doubts about the determination and unity of the US and its allies were misguided and that their conviction would remain steadfast.

Murad hopes good governance from newly elected LG representatives

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Thursday expressed the hope that the newly elected members of local government in Hyderabad would focus on resolving civic issues through good governance.

He urged the Mayor, deputy mayor of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation, chairmen, and vice chairmen, of Matiyari, Thatta, Sujawal, and Tando Allahyar districts to work hard in resolving the issues of the people of their respective areas so that people feel the difference.

"I have started meetings with the newly elected representatives so that their problems can be discussed and given them direction for developments of their cities and towns," he said in a meeting held with Mayor, Deputy Mayor and elected town Chairmen, vice chairmen of Hyderabad district.

The CM said 'We

have to give ownership to our cities and towns for their genuine uplift'.

The meeting was attended by Syed Ali Nawaz Shah Rizvi, Rehana Leghari, Zaheer Pitafi, Deputy Speaker Dost Ali Jesar, Sadiq Memon, Mayor Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Kashif Shoro, and Deputy Mayor Saghir Qureshi and chairmen and vice chairmen of the towns.

Shah said that the major issues of our cities and towns include water, sanitation, cleanliness, and encroachments while the issues of the local bodies were ghost employees, double employment, and pension issues.

"You have taken over your positions and you have to improve the efficiency of your towns and establish good governance so that the purpose of their tier could be achieved," he said and added that the local bodies were passing through the transition

phase during which the arrangement of the offices, distribution of resources and employees, and carving out the limits would take place. "But, during the transition phase all the local bodies are functional and you [chairmen and vice chairmen] have to work for the people," he said.

Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Shoro discussed the issues of sewerage lines, water problems, and issues of pumping machines.

At this, the chief minister urged him to conduct a proper survey of the old sewerage lines so that they could be replaced. As far as the performance of the WASA is concerned, the CM said the mayor has to make it an efficient body. The elected representatives of Thatta and Sujawal proposed the chief minister hand over the sweeping of streets, lifting of garbage, and cleanliness work of their towns to Sindh Solid Waste Management.



Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque and Federal Minister for Science and Technology Agha Hassan Baloch witnessing contract signing of High Speed Mobile Broadband Projects for Balochistan in Islamabad.

Case against appointment of judges, judicial staff: Objective of hearing case is ensuring transparency in appointments: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has directed to provide to the lawyers of respondents the report filed by registrar Sindh High Court (SHC).

The court issued the orders during the hearing of case against appointment of judges and judicial staff in subordinate courts in Sindh.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial took up the case for hearing Thursday.

The CJP remarked the objective of hearing this case is bringing transparency in appointments. Registrar SHC has sent report of 3-member committee to us.

Counsel for SHC Munir A Malik told the court copy of report has not been received by him so far.

He took the plea before the court I assure on behalf of SHC no negligence will be made in future. Institutional process

is there in connection with appointments Khawaja Shams ul Islam, counsel for the petitioner told the court that SC has given observation against the appointments in two court orders related to this case.

The CJP remarked our observation in court's orders is of temporary nature. Committee of 5 judges of SC made appointments of 90 or 100 judges after working for three months.

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said that Pakistan wanted to expand bilateral ties with the Philippines, Iran, and Rwanda in the fields of trade, economy, investment, culture, and people-to-people contacts.

The president made these remarks while talking to the Ambassadors-designates of the Republic of the Philippines and the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the non-resident High-Commissioner-designate of the Republic of Rwanda, who presented their diplomatic credentials to the president and made separate calls on him, here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

All issues of traders to resolve on priority: Mayor Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Thursday said that efforts would be made to solve the problems of traders by taking all stakeholders into the confidence. He said this while meeting a delegation of Sukkur Chamber of Commerce and Industries (KSCCI) at his office here.

A delegation of Sukkur Chamber of Commerce, headed by Bilal Khan, met Barrister Arslan Sheikh and apprised him of the problems faced by the traders.

Five including street criminal, proclaimed offenders arrested

KARACHI (APP): Five including an alleged most wanted street criminal, proclaimed offenders and wanted accused were arrested by police on Thursday.

According to police, a most wanted street criminal was arrested from Qaimkhani Colony by Ittehad Town police station. The arrested was identified as Shahzaib while another accused namely Anwar Zaib managed to escape.

An illegal pistol along with rounds and a stolen motorcycle was recovered from the possession of the arrested.

The recovered motorcycle bearing registration number KHP-3326 was stolen last month from the limits of Docks police station.

A case had been registered and further investigations were underway.

Girl dies, mother injured as part of flat collapse

KARACHI (INP): A young girl died while her mother critically injured when part of a flat collapsed in the metropolis on Thursday noon.

According to details, dilapidated part of a flat located in Gulistan-e-Johar area of Karachi suddenly came down.

A young girl died in the incident while mother was seriously injured. The rescue teams reached the scene, pulled out the body, injured from debris and shifted them to hospital.

Kashmiri youth determined to continue struggle for right to self-determination: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (INP): Prime Minister's Adviser on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira, paying glowing tributes to the Kashmiris martyred on July 13, 1931, has said that the martyrs have set an eternal example of faith and determination by completing the Azaan in front of the brutal soldiers of the Dogra Maharaja.

Qamar Zaman Kaira in a statement issued in Islamabad said this historical event of Kashmir laid the strong foundation for the freedom struggle of Kashmir which continues today. He said Kashmiri

youth are firmly holding the knowledge of freedom of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir as thousands of youth like Burhan Muzaffar Wani Shaheed are determined for their right to self-determination. The Adviser said Indian oppression and tyranny cannot defeat the Kashmiris' spirit of freedom in any way. He said the freedom movement of Kashmiris, which has been going on for nine decades, will soon meet with success. He added that Pakistan will continue to support the Kashmiris in their struggle for securing right to self-determination.

GILGIT: Governor Gilgit-Baltistan Syed Mehdi Shah administering oath from Newly Elected Chief Minister Gilgit-Baltistan Haji Gulbar Khan at Governor Secretariat.

DC Hyderabad asks departments concerned to submit contingency plans for Muharram arrangements

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad Fuad Ghaffar Soomro has asked the heads of departments concerned to submit their contingency plans for arrangements of Muharram-ul-Haram so that the citizens could not face any inconvenience during the month.

Presiding over a meeting here at his office on Thursday with the heads of concerned departments, ulema of all sects and heads of mourning organizations, the Deputy Commissioner also directed the Assistant Commissioners to control rooms in their respective taluka offices so that the complaints of the citizens particularly mourners could be registered and resolved at the earliest.

A district level control room will also start functioning soon at Deputy Commissioner's office, he informed.

The Deputy Commissioner also advised the management of HESCO to avert load management from first to thirteen Muharram adding that repair and maintenance of HESCO installations including power transformers should be completed before start of the month.

Women cricketers begin training at skills camp

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Women Cricketers Team began their training at a Skills Camp set up at the Hanif Mohammed High Performance Centre here on Thursday.

According to a PCB Spokesman, 20 women cricketers including Captain Nida Dar took part in the training session. The second five-day skills camp will continue from July 13-17. Earlier, the first skills camp was set up at the National Cricket Academy Lahore from July 5 to July 9.

Hot, dry weather to persist in Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department, on Thursday, forecast hot and dry weather for most parts of Sindh with a likelihood of partly cloudy weather with chances of drizzle in the night or morning along the coast during the next 24 hours.

According to the Met Office, the maximum temperatures on Friday would range between 36 to 38 degrees Centigrade in Karachi, 39-41 C in Hyderabad, 41-43 C in Sukkur, 36-38 C in Thatta, 42-44 C in Mohenjo Daro, 42-44 C in Dadu, 38-40 C in Mithi and 42-44 degree Centigrade in Nawabshah.

Pakistan vows to engage with Afghanistan on all aspects of cooperation

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has reaffirmed its commitment to engage with Afghanistan on all aspects of cooperation and concern including issues relating to terror threats. At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch urged the Afghan authorities to fulfill their promises that their soil will not be used for terrorism against Pakistan.

She said it is their responsibility to ensure that their land is not used against Pakistan, and Afghan authorities have accepted this responsibility on various occasions. On the situation in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said since 5th August 2019, over seven hundred and eighty Kashmiri people have been martyred by the Indian occupation forces. She said India's unabated repression over the last seven decades

has failed to break the will of Kashmiri people for the right to self-determination. She said Pakistan will continue to support its Kashmiri brothers and sisters in their just struggle against Indian oppression till the realization of their inalienable right to self-determination as enshrined in the UN Security Council Resolutions.

Responding to a question, the spokesperson said Indus Water Treaty is an important document that has served both Pakistan and India. She said Pakistan is committed to its full implementation and hoped India will remain committed to it. The Spokesperson said the UN Human Rights Council recently adopted a historic resolution presented by Pakistan on the behalf of the OIC which condemned any advocacy of religious hatred including the recent acts of desecration of Holy Quran and underscored the need for holding the perpetrators to account.

Secretary General of Pakistan Hockey Federation Syed Haider Hussain Thursday called on Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Speaker NA calls for close cooperation among pillars of the state

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf called for close cooperation among pillars of the state for the betterment of the country and its citizens. He also highlighted the importance of a robust legal system that upholds justice, fairness, and the rule of law during his meeting with the Attorney General for Pakistan, Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan, today at Speaker House, Islamabad.

During the meeting, Honorable Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf and Attorney General Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan engaged in a comprehensive dialogue regarding various legal issues affecting Pakistan.

The Speaker remarked "the rule of law is the cornerstone of a just society. It is our collective responsibility to ensure its integrity and supremacy. We stand committed in our dedication to preserving the constitutional framework that guarantees justice and equality for all citizens."

Attorney General Mr. Mansoor Usman Awan expressed his appreciation for the Speaker's commitment to promoting a strong legal framework that safeguards the rights and interests of the people.

Mayor assures addressing civic issues before Muharram

HYDERABAD (APP): The Mayor of Hyderabad Kashif Shoro has assured that all-out efforts were being made to address the civic issues before the start of the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

All concerned wings of Hyderabad Municipal Corporation have been activated to ensure cleanliness and special lighting arrangements around the places of Majalis-e-Aza and routes of mourning processions as well as provision of maximum facilities to mourners during the

month of Muharram-ul-Haram, he informed.

The Mayor informed this while presiding over a meeting here at his office on Thursday with the officers of all concerned departments, religious leaders of all sects and heads of mourning organizations. He informed that directives have also been issued to address the sewerage system and replace all choked lines, particularly in the areas where Majalis-e-Azama will be organized and mourning processions will be taken out.

KARACHI: A view of the sewerage water accumulated on road at Soldier Bazaar causing trouble to the people, which needs the attention of concern authorities.

Writers, intellectuals terms modern Sufism as theory of social reforms

HYDERABAD (APP): Writers and Intellectuals termed modern Sufism as theory of social reforms and said that Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai introduced Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi to Sindh.

Under the auspicious of Bazm-e-Rooh Rehan and in collaboration with Anjuman Ghulam-e-Qalandar Sindh, the launching ceremony of the book "Rumi Ji Otaq" written by the well-known thinker, poet and writer Syed Ghulam Hyder Shah Qalandri, was held at Dr. Nabi Bux Baloch Auditorium of Sindh Language Authority.

While addressing the ceremony the Secretary General of Sindh Adabi

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KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah meets with Consul General of Qatar Mr. Mishal Mohammad A. A. Al-Ansari who paid farewell call on him at CM House.

IDB president assures PM of continued support to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Dr Sulaiman Al Jasser on Thursday assured Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif of continued financial support to Pakistan.

The IDB president, in a telephonic conversation with PM Shehbaz, termed Pakistan a brotherly country and vowed to cooperate with it, the PM Office said.

The prime minister thanked the IDB president for giving one billion dollars to Pakistan and said the received amount also played an important role in finalizing the standby agreement with the International

Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said without the IDB's support, the IMF's deal with Pakistan's was difficult to materialize.

The prime minister said the Islamic Development Bank was an important partner of Pakistan, which helped it in difficult times.

He recalled his meeting with Sulaiman Jasser in France, and said Pakistan was keen to further strengthen its partnership with the IDB.

He apprised the IDB president of the recently established Special Investment Facilitation Council for the promotion of investment in the country.

Commissioner Larkana chairs meeting to review Muharram arrangements

LARKANA (APP): Commissioner Larkana Division Ghanwar Ali Leghari chaired a high level meeting regarding law & order, to review the arrangements for maintaining a peaceful atmosphere and other arrangements for the forthcoming Muharram-ul-Haram throughout the division, here at the conference room of Commissioner's office, on Thursday.

The Sector Commander Shahbaz Rangers Sukkur, Wing Commanders of Shahbaz Rangers Larkana and other districts, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs of Larkana, Kamber-

Shahdaddot, Shikarpur, Jacobabad and Kashmore-Kandhkot, District Health Officers (DHOs), Medical Superintendents (MSs) and other concerned officers and leaders of various sects also attended the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, Commissioner Larkana Division Ghanwar Ali Leghari urged the police authorities of Larkana Division to make foolproof security arrangements during Muharram and to maintain law and order at all costs and has directed the officials of various departments to do their best.



HYDERABAD: SHO Naik Mohammad speaking at a press conference at Thana Hadri bypasses.

Surplus budget of District Council Larkana approved unanimously

LARKANA (APP): The Members of the District Council Larkana in its special session held in the council meeting hall, on Thursday unanimously passed its surplus budget for the fiscal year 2023-24. The Chairman District Council Larkana Aijaz Ahmed Leghari presided over the special session. On the occasion, Chairman District Council Larkana presented the Annual proposed Budget 2023-24 in which the opening bal-

ance is shown as 25 crore 67 lac 83 thousand 958 rupees. While the income is expected to be 71 crore 87 lac 88 thousand 674 rupees. The estimated total income is 7,755,572,632 rupees.

In the budget of the next fiscal year, the revenue expenditure is Rs 42 crore 79 thousand 850 and the capital expenditure is Rs 35 crore 50 lac. While the total cost is expected to be 775 million 79 thousand 850 rupees.

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