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Sindh cabinet approves 58 agenda items including constitution of PFC

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Cabinet has approved Provincial Finance Commission (PFC) to recommend a resource distribution formula to the government here in a meeting held at CM house on Wednesday.

Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presided over cabinet meeting, discussed and decided various important agenda items including the constitution of the Provincial Finance Commission, the establishment of Larkano General University, import of 500,000 MT wheat, and maintaining of fares of Intra-district Peoples Bus Service for next six months.

The meeting was attended by all provincial ministers, advisors, Special Assistants, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, Chairman P&D Hassan Naqvi, Principal Secretary to CM Fayaz Jatoi, and others. The cabinet had 69 agenda items of them 58 items were discussed and decided and the remaining would be taken up in the next cabinet meeting likely to be held on Saturday.

The Provincial Finance Commission will recommend a resource distribution formula to the government. The PFC would also give recommendations for the distribution of resources between the government and the councils out of the proceeds of the provincial consolidated fund into a provincial retained amount and a provincial allocable amount – called the Provincial Finance Commission Award.

The chairman of the PFC shall be Sindh Chief Minister/Minister Finance Syed Murad Ali Shah, Co-Chairman Local Government Minister Nasir Shah, two members of the provincial assembly, Mayor

KMC, Mayor Sukkur, Mayor District Council Tando Mohammad Khan Syed Qasim Naveed, Chairman Municipal Committee Umerkot Qasim Siraj Soomro, Chairman Korangi Town Nacem Shaikh.

The chief minister directed the chief secretary to get the PFC body notified today and before the end of his tenure, he would announce the PFC award.

Minister for Transport Sharjeel Memon told the cabinet that the People Bus Service Project as conceived has suffered a prompt change in costs due to rise in fuel prices. Appropriate to this, he said, the Company has approached the Sindh Mass Transit Authority showing concerns that they are sustaining huge financial operational losses as compared to the agreed rates/costs in 2021 and that the fares have not been revised as yet.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM led by the Convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

FM highlights effectiveness of reforms, approaches in face of fast changing world

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Wednesday stressed upon adoption of new diplomatic approaches in the fast changing world and expressed the hope that the recently introduced change management reforms in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would bring further efficiency, accountability, agility and dynamism.

Addressing a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the change management reforms initiatives taken during the last one year, the foreign minister said that a total of 51 reform works were carried out at the ministry, among which 19 were fully implemented, three were partially completed and 29 initiatives were on the track of completion in the areas of automation and digitization processes, improvement in the diplomatic, administrative, finance and consular services abroad etc.

The foreign minister enumerated the significant achievements of the ministry at the global level under his stewardship, including Pakistan's removal from the FATF grey list, successful hosting of COP27, effective role at the OIC Foreign Ministers Council, etc, besides endeavours to enhance the relationships and diplomatic outreach.

He said, "The world is changing at the lightning speed with technological advances shifting power dynamics while the interconnectedness has become the new norms on diplomatic fronts."

To embrace the changes, after assuming the office, he said he embarked upon the reforms process to create a robust and agile ministry so that it could tackle any challenge that come their way.

S Asia not to attain peace without just, peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday reiterated that without the just and peaceful resolution of the Kashmir dispute, South Asia will never be able to attain durable peace and unlock its true development potential.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said the government and the people of Pakistan expressed their unflinching support and solidarity with the Kashmiris living in Pakistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir, Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere in the world on the Day of Accession to Pakistan. The Day marked the adoption of a resolution by the All Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference at a convention in Srinagar in 1947 that called for merging Kashmir with Pakistan, he added.

PM, MQM hold discussion on formation of caretaker governments

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM) led by the Convener Dr. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif here on Wednesday and discussed in detail the matter of formation of caretaker governments besides overall current political situation in the country.

Federal Minister for Information Technology Syed Amin ul Haque, Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori, Dr Farooq Sattar and Mustafa Kamal were also part of the delegation.

Minister for Railways and Aviation Khawaja Saad Rafique and Minister for Economic Affairs Sardar Ayaz Sadiq were present in the meeting.

The meeting was held in connection with the prime minister's consultations with the allies with respect to formation of the caretaker governments. During the meeting, matter of the recent population census also came under discussion.

The delegation paid tributes to the prime minister on personally monitoring the federal government's ongoing projects in Karachi and ensuring speedy work on these projects on priority basis.

The MQM delegation also praised PM Shehbaz Sharif and his economic team's efforts for completing the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting held at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

President urges bureaucracy to promote good governance in public departments

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday urged the government officers to play their role in promotion of good governance in all public departments.

Besides improving service delivery, he said, the bureaucracy should also work for the country's development and welfare of the people with sincerity and hard work.

He was talking to the participants of 37th Mid-Career Management Course Quetta, who called on him here at the President House.

The president said the government authorities needed to take timely decisions to provide justice to the people.

"Delay in decision making put negative impact on the service delivery and development of the country," he said. "We need to adopt better morals and values of integrity."

He said the bureaucracy had to streamline the system and improve intellectual capacity. The officers should equip themselves with modern skills to augment their performance along with effective decision making, he remarked.

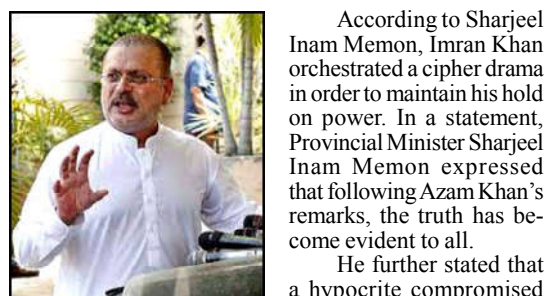
President Alvi also asked the bureaucracy to benefit from the modern information technology to improve the people's access to the public service and enhance the performance of government departments.

The president also directed to provide service as per the people's expectations as it would help fast-track development in the country.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a cabinet meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

Imran orchestrated cipher drama in order to maintain his hold on power: Sharjeel



According to Sharjeel Inam Memon, Imran Khan orchestrated a cipher drama in order to maintain his hold on power. In a statement, Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon expressed that following Azam Khan's remarks, the truth has become evident to all.

He further stated that a hypocrite compromised Pakistan's diplomacy in the whole world for the sake of power. Sharjeel Inam Memon criticized PTI Chairman Imran Khan, stating that he jeopardized Pakistan's foreign policy to retain power and went to great lengths to isolate the country diplomatically. Sharjeel Inam Memon further said that Imran Khan should be held accountable and face trial for conspiring against the nation.

President summons NA session on July 20, Senate on July 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Wednesday separately summoned the sessions of the National Assembly and Senate to be held on July 20 and July 24 respectively.

The National Assembly session will be held on Thursday, July 20 at 1700 hours while the Senate would meet on Monday, July 24 at 1500 hours.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change, Senator Sherry Rehman, addressing during the launching ceremony of Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) Annual Report-2022.

Dar chairs meeting of CCoIGCT

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT), today.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khuram Dastgir Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, Secretary Commerce and other senior officers attended the meeting.

Records of Land dept being computerized: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that all the records of the Land Department are being computerized where the citizens will be provided with a one-window facility for their land-related matters including ownership, transfer and lease of land in Karachi as all matters are being made transparent and improved so that no one complains in this regard.

He expressed these views on Wednesday on the occasion of inaugurating the renovated office of the Land Department and the new monitoring and surveillance system in the KMC building at the KMC head office.

He said that the installation of biometric attendance system will ensure the attendance of officers and staff, the security system has been developed on modern lines in the main office building of KMC with 42 modern cameras installed, which will improve the surveillance system in and around the building. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, General Secretary of PPP District South Karamullah Waqasi, Municipal Commissioner Nauman Arshad, Director Land Sabah Islam, Director City Warden Raja Rustam and other officers were also present.

Imran tenders apology in case of hurling threats against female judge

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI chairman has tendered apology before the case in the case of hurling threats against female judge Zeba Chaudhry.

Chairman PTI appeared in the court of Judicial magistrate Malik Aman.

Case related to threatening female judge against chairman PTI came up for hearing in district and sessions court Islamabad.

Chairman PTI appeared in the court of judicial magistrate Malik Aman.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sana Ullah Khan addresses a Press Conference.

Australian envoy calls on Info. Minister PML-N govt firmly believes in press freedom: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (Online): Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan Neil Hawkins called on Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb in Islamabad on Wednesday and the two exchanged views on bilateral relations, economic stability and cooperation in the areas of film, art and culture.

Australian ambassador lauded the efforts of Pakistan government for stability of national economy and IMF agreement.

Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb said Pakistan holds its relations with Australia in high esteem. She went on to say the government took immediate and concrete steps for national economy in line with the PM Shahbaz Sharif vision. Positive results have started coming in national economy due to these steps.

She also apprised Australian ambassador about newly established Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

She said this council will ensure consistency and effective implementation of policies for economic recovery. SIFC will work on high forum of decision making. She said government believes in freedom of expression. Government presented bill on freedom of expression in parliament during first week after coming to power.

She said the Journalists and Media Professionals' Protection (Amendment) Bill is in the process of approval. Robust amount has been allocated in the current fiscal year budget in connection with health insurance of journalists and artists.

WB-BISP eager to build a vibrant digital ecosystem in Pakistan

WASHINGTON (APP): The World Bank and Benazir Income Support

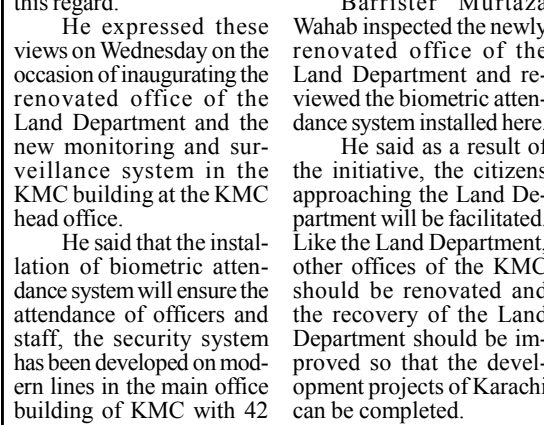


Programme (BISP) have agreed to collaborate in a sustainable way to promote the digital economy by providing guidance, training and financial assistance to young entrepreneurs to build a vibrant digital ecosystem in Pakistan.

The collaboration was agreed by the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme, Ms. Shazia Marri and World Bank's Regional Head of Social Protection and Act-

Met office predicts Monsoon rains in different parts of Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department, on Wednesday, forecasted rain with winds and thunder-showers in different parts of Sindh including the coastal areas in the next 24 hours while isolated heavy falls may occur in Tharparkar. According to the weather forecast issued by the met office, Karachi, Thatta, Badin, Dadu, Jamshoro, Tharparkar, Umarkot, Mirpur Khas, Shaheed Benazirabad, Sanghar, Nuashero Feroz, Sukkur, Khairpur, Larkana and Jacobabad districts may receive rain on Thursday.



KARACHI: Sindh Assembly Member (MPA) and People's Party (PPP) Leader Sharmila Farooqi giving Sewing Machine to needy Women during Distribution Ceremony organized by NGO.

12 laborers die in wall collapse incident due to heavy rains

ISLAMABAD (Online): At least 12 laborers were killed when a wall of under-construction bridge collapsed near Golra Mor, Peshawar Road in Islamabad.

Due to heavy rains a tragic incident has taken place near Golra Mor Peshawar road claiming lives of 12 laborers.

According to police the rescue teams have pulled out 12 dead bodies with the help of machinery. Rescue operation is underway to rescue more persons likely to be trapped in rubble.

Wall is reported to be 100-foot wide and 11-foot high, under which the laborers were living in a tent at the construction site.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Census & polls

As the nation begins to enter election mode, the rulers have made it clear that the next polls will be based on the 2017 census. While this decision has been decried by some government allies, such as the MQM, the inconvenient truth is that this late in the day, the government has little choice — mainly because of its own lethargy — but to hold polls as per the 2017 numbers. Any other option may end up delaying elections, which is unacceptable.

The federal law minister announced on Monday that “if” the seventh census is not approved then constituencies will be drawn up on the basis of the previous head count’s figures. This is largely a foregone conclusion as the legal and constitutional process of notifying the latest census and delimiting new constituencies would clash with the electoral time line.

Some media reports on Tuesday indicated that the National Assembly could be dissolved early, though these were denied by the information minister. Regardless, elections would be due no later than November.

This means there is not enough time to notify the results, make the requisite constitutional amendment, and delimit new constituencies.

Independent observers also concur that polls will have to be held on the basis of the 2017 numbers. This is because even if the government notifies the 2023 results today, it will have to amend the Constitution under Article 51(3) and thereafter delimit new constituencies.

As mentioned, the government does not have the time to carry out these legal processes, while a caretaker set-up does not have the mandate to make constitutional amendments. Therefore, despite the reservations of the MQM, the fact is that there are few good options other than holding polls based on the 2017 numbers.

Of course, the rulers must shoulder the blame for this predicament. Apart from resource allocation, updated census numbers are essential for the democratic process, yet the multibillion-rupee exercise will be of no utility in the upcoming polls.

When provisional census numbers had been finalised two months ago, the government should have gone ahead and notified the results so that the legal process could have begun.

Perhaps the rulers feared they lacked the numbers in a rump parliament to make the requisite constitutional changes. Because of this mismanagement, voters in provinces where the population has grown will not get increased representation in parliament. However, the fresh census controversy notwithstanding, under no circumstances should the polls be delayed any further. Already the Punjab and KP caretakers are operating beyond their constitutional tenures. This must not be replicated in Sindh, Balochistan and the centre. The only way out of the current quagmire is for free and fair polls to be held on time, bringing in a new dispensation with a fresh mandate to govern.

The strength within



Muhammad Mohsin Masood

The resilience of people is awe-inspiring. In the darkest of crannies and nooks, the strength that is within us can lead us to light. In individuals, that tiny flicker of light can give rise to unprecedented amounts of courage, energy, kindness and joy. In the lives of nations, the resilience of its peoples, if led through the halls of principle, can lead to tolerance, magnanimity, stability and democratic values. Unfortunately, in Pakistan, we have an uncharitable tendency to discount much of the suffering and the long-term trauma that ordinary individual citizens face. It would be accurate to say that the most ordinary of people lead, in the most ordinary of circumstances, the most extraordinary of lives. It is certainly most extraordinary of them to face up to a barrage of challenges such as terrorism, poverty, the worsening political and economic stability, testing their resilience in everyday life. One such challenge which silently gnaws at the heart of one in 10 menstruating women in the world is endometriosis. This disease which affects some 200 million women in the world literally eats into the very insides of a person and drains the physical and mental strength with which they face the world.

Endometriosis is a condition where tissue similar to that found in the lining of the womb grows elsewhere in the body, such as on the

ovaries and in the fallopian tubes. Symptoms can include lower abdomen or back pain, severe pain during periods, pain during intercourse, bowel and bladder symptoms, and fertility problems. The symptoms can vary for different women, with some more severely affected than others.

Endometriosis can have a significant impact on some women’s lives. It is a debilitating condition characterised primarily with intense pain with no cure. The level of pain can not only cause fainting in those living with endometriosis but also take a mental toll and can cause complete paralysis in social and domestic functioning. Yet, they are there, living, working, and existing with us in our homes, social spaces and workplaces.

The amount of energy that they expend on just functioning and adding to our productivity as a society is colossal. Endometriosis is not a rare disease in Pakistan, it is estimated that some 25 per cent of all laparoscopies done in the country find traces of endometriosis. A condition that has such a vast impact upon the lives of such a huge number of women needs to be addressed. Yet, this disease remains shrouded because many doctors are misinformed about the disease; then there is a major lack of awareness, funding, research into diagnosis coupled with the cultural silence and taboo around women’s bodies, menstrual cycles and health.

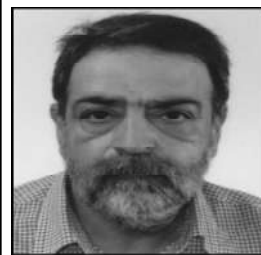
The resilience of patients of endometriosis is not only to be admired but should be taken as a source of inspiration to take action as a society and state which attempts to grant its citizens the rights with which they can enjoy a safe, respectful and healthy life. Yes, Paki-

stan does not have an explicit right to health enshrined in the Constitution. We do, however, have a jurisprudence developed around Articles 9 and 14 of the Constitution to guarantee the right to healthcare to ensure the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The Supreme Court has recently stressed on the availability of access to all kinds of medical services to everyone without discrimination. Endometriosis and its affectees on the other hand remain under the radar and the shroud of societal invisibility not only denies them proper healthcare but also recalcitrant of their pain. However, the state is obligated under the dictates of its moral and political authority to grant them not only that recognition but also cater to and facilitate them with its resources.

It is partly because of this, that the US Congress passed a law to get funding into endometriosis research programmes. There is also the Endometriosis CARE Act of 2022 introduced in the Congress attempting to get more funding and raise awareness and education with respect to endometriosis. Considering that many are unaware of endometriosis, such targeted legislation is a good starting point. In Pakistan, we recently had the 2020 Rights of Persons with Disability Act; however, endometriosis is not considered a disability to enable women to get benefit of the legislation. What is needed is research backed by legislation attempting to understand not only the disease but also to counter the multidimensional barricades that such women face to properly realise their right to health in combating this disease. --

Courtesy Dawn

Masters of war



Mahir Ali

The headlines from the Nato summit that concluded a week ago in the Lithuanian capital mainly reflected the prospect of Swedish membership and, more dramatically, the failure to invite Ukraine into the fold. The petulant reaction from Volodymyr Zelensky suggested he was counting on not an immediate induction but at least some kind of timetable.

Leading figures from the British and US administrations indicated that they expected a bit more gratitude from Kyiv. There is some consternation among Western political-military elites that whenever Zelensky thanks his Western backers for their latest shipment — or promise — of lethal weaponry, he asks for more.

For obvious reasons, there was never any question of Ukraine entering the fold in the middle of a war, but there was the possibility of announcing that it would be able to join right after it ended. That, in turn, could have reduced the likelihood of Vladimir Putin agreeing under any circumstances to any kind of truce.

Mind you, the Russian president has never so much as hinted at the possibility of a ceasefire, and his imperialist impulses appear undamaged in the wake of the Wagner mutiny and the consequent impression of a weaker Kremlin. But then, the same goes for the other side.

Even before Joe Biden held out the promise of cluster bombs — a particularly pernicious weapon banned by several Nato members — the response to Russia’s invasion has involved pumping weapons into Ukraine, mainly from the US

but also from others. Germany advanced rapidly from helmets to tanks, and one of the less-publicised achievements of the Vilnius summit was an agreement on training Ukrainian pilots to fly F-16s.

Those warplanes are among the commitments Recep Tayyip Erdogan was seeking for his own regime, alongside Stockholm’s willingness to turn its back on the Kurds who have sought refuge in Sweden, as the price for agreeing to Swedish membership of Nato. He also wanted the resumption of talks on Turkey joining the EU, even though there is no short-term prospect of accession.

Biden has also indicated that the quality of Ukrainian democracy remains a concern, but that’s hardly bothered Nato in the past. Military coups in Turkey and Greece did not affect their status, and questions could justifiably be raised about the quality of purported democracy in countries such as Hungary and Poland, not to mention the US itself.

Following the birth of Nato in the aftermath of World War II, its first secretary general, Britain’s Lord Ismay — who was born in India, and served as military secretary to colonial viceroy Lord Willingdon — said that the military alliance was intended to keep “the Americans in, the Russians out and the Germans down”. However, as Grey Anderson and Thomas Meaney pointed out in a New York Times column, Nato “was never primarily concerned with aggregating military power”, as the divisions it fielded would never have been enough to repel a Soviet ground invasion (which, one might add, was never contemplated in Moscow). “Rather, it set out to bind western Europe to a far vaster project of a US-led world order, in which American protection served as a lever to obtain concessions on other issues, like trade and mon-

etary policy.”

“In that mission,” they add, “it has proved remarkably successful.” There is talk now of a ‘global Nato’, and putative ‘Indo-Pacific 4’ partners — Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand — were all present at Vilnius, as they were at Madrid last year. The potential adversary, in this case, is China.

No challenge to American hegemony can be tolerated, and Nato has never been much more than an instrument for that mindset, primarily in Europe — including its bombardment of the Balkans in the 1990s — but also in territories from Afghanistan to Libya. It leaves a trail of mass destruction wherever it goes, and the project of making the world safe for capitalism has not been a particular success outside Europe.

None of the above is intended to suggest that Russia or China is on the right track. The monumental folly of invading Ukraine will haunt Russia long after Putin perishes, by natural causes or otherwise, and Xi Jinping’s “Chinese dream” could turn out to be a nightmare for plenty of less powerful nations, but also for China itself. Yet the prospect of entrenching US neo-imperialism more widely is much like adding fossil fuel to the fire while the world experiences some of its hottest days in thousands of years.

Anthropogenic climate change has brought humanity to the brink of self-annihilation. Egged on by the masters of war — excoeriated by Bob Dylan 60 years ago shortly after Dwight Eisenhower’s warning against the military-industrial complex, which remains dedicated to profiting from the economies of conflict — misanthropic militarism could push us over the cliff. --

Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ADB maintains growth forecast for Asia and the Pacific at 4.8%

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is maintaining its growth outlook for developing economies in Asia and the Pacific at 4.8 percent this year, as robust domestic demand continues to support the region’s recovery.

Inflation is expected to continue falling, approaching pre-pandemic levels as fuel and food prices decline. According to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) for July 2023 released by the ADB on Wednesday, growth in Pakistan in FY2023 (ended

30 June 2023) was weighed down by tighter monetary and fiscal policies to safeguard macroeconomic stability, pervasive inflation, and significant damage from flooding. The ADO April 2023 projection for Pakistan in FY2024 assumes that the government will continue reform as recommended by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) under a new policy-support program approved on July 12. Inflation in developing Asia is forecast at 3.6 percent this year, compared with April

forecast of 4.2 percent. The inflation outlook for 2024, meanwhile, is raised to 3.4 percent from an earlier estimate of 3.3 percent, it added. The reopening of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) is bolstering the region’s growth. The PRC’s economy is projected to expand 5.0 percent this year, unchanged from the April forecast, amid strong domestic demand in the services sector. However, demand for developing Asia’s exports of electronics and other manufactured goods is

slowing, as monetary tightening drags on economic activity in major advanced economies.

The region’s growth forecast for next year is marginally revised down to 4.7 percent from 4.8 percent estimate in April.

“Asia and the Pacific continue to recover from the pandemic at a steady pace,” said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park. “Domestic demand and services activity are driving growth, while many economies are also benefiting from a strong recovery in tourism.”



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting to review the progress regarding the ongoing SOE reforms.



A Delegation of Asian Development Bank (ADB) led by Country Director Mr. Young Ye, called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, at Finance Division, Islamabad

No additional tax being imposed on agriculture sector income: Bilal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Economy and Energy Bilal Azhar Kayani on Wednesday categorically said that the government had no plan to impose additional tax on income of agriculture sector.

Addressing a news conference here, he said it was unfortunate that those who pushed the country to the verge of default were now attempting to dent the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme.

He expressed firm resolve that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) would continue to take the country’s journey towards economic stability and progress forward after coming into

power in the next general elections.

He mentioned that the government had successfully entered into a nine-month Stand-By-Agreement (SBA) with IMF, which was the result of the Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s dedicated efforts that received overwhelming support from the entire nation.

One significant indicator of the country’s economic growth was observed on July 3 when the Pakistan stock exchange experienced a remarkable increase of 2446 points, with the index surpassing the 45,000 mark. This positive development was well-received by the business and trading communities,

signifying their confidence in the government’s economic policies, he added.

Kayani highlighted that Fitch, a renowned credit rating agency, also improved Pakistan’s rating from minus ‘CCC’ to ‘+CCC’ further bolstering the nation’s economic position.

Acknowledging the concerns surrounding loans acquired from the IMF, the Prime Minister himself acknowledged the necessity of such measures for Pakistan’s economic well-being. As a result, the country’s foreign reserves increased, and exchange rate stability has been achieved, effectively eliminating the threats of default.

SBP designates domestic systemically important banks for 2023

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan on Wednesday announced the Domestic Systemically Important Banks for the year 2023 under D-SIBs framework aimed at further strengthening risk management capacities and resilience against shocks.

According to a statement issued here, the central bank has designated National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), Habib Bank Limited (HBL) and United Bank Limited (UBL) as D-SIBs for the year 2023 after carrying out the annual assessment based on banks’ financials as of

December 31, 2022 in line with D-SIBs framework.

In addition to the implementation of the enhanced supervisory requirements, the designated banks have to follow additional Common Equity Tier-1 (CET-1) capital requirements according to the specified bucket. The NBP has been assigned bucket D with 2.5 percent additional CET-1 requirement, the HBL has been placed in bucket C with 1.5 percent additional CET-1 requirement and UBL in bucket A with 0.5 percent additional CET-1 requirement.

SM Tanveer chairs 123rd PSIC board meeting

LAHORE Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industry and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired the 123rd Board of Directors (BoD) meeting of Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) to discuss 14 agenda items here on Wednesday.

The BoD approved the PSIC budget of Rs 5.1 billion for the financial year 2023-24,

besides taking important decisions to expedite industrialisation. It was decided to give a final chance to those who have not yet established industries on vacant plots in industrial estates.

The plot owner would have to fulfill obligations in the first month, submit a plan within three months, and start construction within the following three months.

PM directs for swift reforms in loss-making state-owned enterprises

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday directed the relevant authorities to introduce reforms on priority basis in the state-owned enterprises (SOEs) inflicting loss to the national exchequer.

The prime minister, who chaired a meeting to review the reforms in the SOEs, instructed to ensure the transparency in the process of outsourcing the services as well as public-

private partnership.

He said the government would ensure that the caretaker government carried forward the policies of the national interest to achieve consistent progress.

The prime minister said the government was taking all-out measures to uplift the working of institutions at par with international standards and provide the best facilities to the masses.

In the briefing, Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif was told that the reforms process of the SOEs was going on swiftly.

It was told that government would ensure the inclusion of experts in the boards of the SOEs to establish modern systems and provide better facilities.

The prime minister was briefed on the performance indicators of the institutions as well as the corporations and the ongoing reforms process there.

Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia visits SCCI

SIKALOT (APP): Ambassador of Pakistan to Ethiopia Atif Sharif on Wednesday visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI). During the meeting, VP SCCI Amer Majeed Sheikh emphasized the need to improve the current trade volume between the two countries. The meeting was aimed to strengthen bilateral trade relations and explore business opportunities. The vice president shared the potential of “Made in Sialkot” products in the Ethiopian market as well as ways to enhance trade and economic cooperation.

PTCL group posts 26.8% revenue growth in 6 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) revenue has jumped to Rs90.9 billion posting a growth of 26.8 per cent during the first six months of the current year compared to the corresponding period.

The financial results for six months were announced during the Board of Directors’ meeting held in Islamabad here on Wednesday, said a news release. Throughout the first half of 2023, PTCL Group has sustained its momentum, further solidifying its position as the leading integrated telecom service provider in Pakistan. “This substantial increase in revenue is primarily

attributed to the exceptional performance across multiple segments, including fixed broadband, mobile data, business solutions and banking services.”

PTCL achieved 17.2 per cent revenue growth over the same period last year in the fixed broadband business. The Company further strengthened its flagship FTTH brand, ‘Flash Fiber’ by achieving significant net subscriber additions through exceptional customer experiences and aggressive expansion of the fiber network across the country which played a vital role in achieving a significant increase in FTTH revenue by 106.5 per cent.

CM directs Admin to immediately complete rainwater drainage operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Wednesday directed the authorities concerned with the district administration to utilize all available resources and immediately complete the rainwater drainage operation.

According to a district administration spokesman, the chief minister had issued special instructions to Rescue-1122, PDMA and the district administration directing them to ensure immediate drainage of water in low-lying areas of Rawalpindi following heavy rain on Tuesday night. The CM said that immediate actions should be taken on an emergency basis for drainage of rainwater.

The officers of the administration and related institutions should remain in the field until the drainage work is completed, he ordered.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Tando Jam are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of influential people, at Hyderabad press club.

Special medical facilities to be provided to participants of Muharram processions

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Health Minister Dr Javed Akram on Wednesday directed to provide the best medical facilities to participants of the processions during Muharram-ul-Haram.

In the directions issued here, the minister said that special arrangements would be made to provide medical facilities in government teaching hospitals on 9th and 10th Muharram. He said that special beds would be allocated in government teaching hospitals during Muharram, adding that duty roster of indoor, operation theaters and pharmacies would be issued. In all government teaching hospitals, paramedical staff

including medical, nursing, paramedical and support staff will perform 24-hour duties. He said that during Muharram, security staff would perform 24-hour duties in government teaching hospitals.

Dr. Javed Akram added that during Muharram, the availability of medicines, vaccines, IV fluids, surgical and non-surgical disposables and blood bags would be ensured in government teaching hospitals. He said that operation theaters of all government teaching hospitals would remain fully operational during Muharram, adding, ambulances with trained staff would also be available in the hospitals.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of public representatives of District Khyber Tehsil Bara meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali.

Govt sends Pakistanis abroad for employment after signing MoUs with foreign countries: Sajid Tori

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, Sajid Husain Tori here Wednesday said the government was sending Pakistanis abroad for employment after signing proper MoUs and agreements with foreign countries to ensure their jobs security and dignified stay there.

The Minister said that

under proper agreements and MoUs, the skilled and semi-skilled workforce of Pakistan were being sent to different countries for employment to earn valuable foreign exchange for the country.

"People are not going by themselves but rather being sent abroad under proper MoUs and agreements signed with 16 different countries to ensure their jobs security and dignified stay in these states," he said.

The federal minister said that up till now, MoUs were signed with about 16 countries for abroad employment to Pakistanis and some more agreements were under consideration.

The Minister said vocational education and professional training were imperative for the sustainable progress and development of the country.

IG police pins badges to promoted officials

FAISALABAD (APP): Inspector General Police Punjab Dr Usman Anwar visited on Wednesday and pinned badges to promoted officials at the Police Lines.

Regional Police Officer Dr Muhammad Abid Khan, City Police Officer Usman Akram Gondal, SSP Operation and other officers were also present. The IG congratulated the promoted staff and directed them to perform their new responsibilities with dedication and honesty. He said the police department was using all available resources for welfare of families of the policemen.

Iranian Consul: China Window can help promote Pak-Iran people to people ties

PESHAWAR (APP): Iranian Consul General in Peshawar, Ali Banafshekhan, Wednesday said the China's cultural center set up in Peshawar could play an effective role in promoting people-to-people relations between Pakistan and Iran, besides its main objective of further strengthening Pak-China friendship.

He expressed these views during his visit to China Window, a center for promotion of Chinese culture and information in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The Iranian diplomat took round of different sec-

tions of China Window, sang the Friendship Wall and penned down his remarks in Guests Book.

Speaking on the occasion, Ali Banafshekhan said on one side Pakistan and China had strong friendly relations, and on the other Iran and Pakistan also had very cordial brotherly relations. He said he was of the belief that with exchange of delegations from both the countries, "our people-to-people relations will become more intact and strong".

Both China Window and Khana-e-Farhang Iran could jointly play an effective role in the promotion of historic relations and culture of three countries, he suggested.

The consul general said he was working on arranging visits of Iranian delegations to Pakistan and in the same way the people from different walks of lives from Peshawar should visit their brotherly Iranian country.

He termed the establishment of China Window a welcoming decision which would help share information among the people about the socio-economic benefits of China Pakistan Economic Corridor in Pakistan.

PPP leaders capable to run country's affairs in better way: Inqilabi

PESHAWAR (APP): Deputy Secretary Information Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa chapter Gohar Inqilabi expressed optimism to win the next general elections.

In a statement issued here, he said that the party is fully capable to run the affairs of the country in a better manner and steering it out of the prevailing crises.

He said that the PPP has prepared a master plan to make Pakistan a prosperous, green and developed country by providing all basic amenities of life to the people of cities, towns and villages across the country.

He said that after coming into power in 2008, it did the historic feat of the 18th Constitutional Amendment and guaranteed rights to the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and other small federating units.



KARACHI: A large numbers of vehicles stuck in traffic jam due to negligence of traffic police staffs and illegal parking, at Liaquatabad in Karachi.

Hearing of petition filed by Pervez against grant of his physical remand adjourned

LAHORE (Online): Without proceeding further, Lahore High Court (LHC) has adjourned till August 12 hearing of the petition against decision regarding physical remand of former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Pervez Elahi.

The petition came up for hearing before single bench of LHC led by Justice Shehram Sarwar Wednesday. Anti corruption authorities and others have been made respondents in the petition.

The court had summoned the lawyers for arguments on appeal of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

The LHC has already suspended the sessions court decision for presenting Chaudhry Pervez Elahi for physical remand again.

The petitioner has taken the plea judicial magistrate refused to grant physical remand of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi to anti corruption authorities. Judicial magistrate sent Chaudhry Pervez Elahi to jail on judicial remand.

Anti corruption challenged the decision of magistrate in sessions court. It was further said in the petition that the court nullified the decision of judicial magistrate for not granting physical remand of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi. Sessions court gave illegal decision of granting physical remand of Chaudhry Pervez Elahi.

The petitioner requested the court to nullify the decision of granting physical remand by sessions court.

International News

Turkiye, Qatar to enhance bilateral relations after Erdogan visit

Monitoring Desk
DOHA: Turkiye and Qatar agreed to further boost bilateral ties in various fields, according to a joint statement issued after President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's visit to the Gulf country.

"On the basis of our strategic relations and bilateral cooperation in the political, diplomatic, economic and commercial fields, and in line with the directives of the wise leaders of the two countries, we are determined to continue our joint efforts to coordinate in various fields to ensure the continuity of the strengthening of bilateral relations for the benefit of the two brotherly countries and peoples."

The Turkish and Qatari foreign ministers signed the declaration during Erdogan's visit to Qatar, marking a half-century since the establishment of diplomatic ties.

"We are pleased to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Turkiye and the State of Qatar in 2023," it said.

"Turkiye-Qatar relations have undergone a qualitative transformation since their establishment in 1973 until (they) reached the stage of strategic partnership." The declaration also stressed

that Turkiye-Qatar relations reflect "deep-rooted" historical ties built on political and social foundations. "The current strategic partnership between the Republic of Turkiye and the State of Qatar is fruitful at all levels, and the two countries have similar approaches on most regional and international issues," it added.

Economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries has witnessed steady growth over the past few years, it added.

Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani welcomed Erdogan with an official ceremony.



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani attend a welcoming ceremony in Doha, Qatar.

Russia strikes critical port facilities in Odesa after Kremlin halts grain deal

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia unleashed intense drone and missile attacks overnight Wednesday, damaging critical port infrastructure in southern Ukraine, including grain and oil terminals, and wounding at least 12 people, officials said.

The bombardment crippled significant parts of export facilities in Odesa and nearby Chornomorsk and destroyed 60,000 tons of grain, according to Ukraine's Agriculture Ministry.

It came days after President Vladimir Putin pulled Russia out of its participation in the Black Sea

Grain Initiative, a wartime deal that enabled Ukraine's exports to reach many countries facing the threat of hunger.

It also followed a vow by Putin to retaliate against Kyiv for an attack Monday on the crucial Kerch Bridge linking Russia with the Crimean Peninsula, which the Kremlin illegally annexed in 2014.

The Agriculture Ministry, citing experts, estimated it would take a year to restore the damaged facilities.

The destroyed grain was supposed to have been loaded onto a vessel and sent through the grain corridor two months ago, the statement said.

"Such attacks by Russian terrorists are not only affecting our country but also global stability," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said during a briefing with the visiting Irish prime minister in Kyiv. He said Ukraine needs more anti-aircraft defense systems to protect the port.

Zelenskyy said his government is trying to find a way to maintain a corridor to keep grain exports flowing despite Russia's decision to abandon the deal brokered with the U.N. and Turkey.

South Africa says Putin will skip a summit next month because of his ICC arrest warrant

Monitoring Desk
CAPE TOWN: Russian President Vladimir Putin will not attend the BRICS economic summit in Johannesburg next month, the office of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement Wednesday. The decision means South Africa will not face the dilemma of whether it should carry out an International Criminal Court arrest warrant against the Russian leader.

South Africa is a signatory to the treaty that created the ICC and would have been obliged under that to arrest Putin, although the country had given strong hints that it would have likely not executed the arrest warrant.

But Wednesday's announcement allows South Africa to avoid the problem and comes after Ramaphosa spoke with Putin by telephone in recent days. The decision for Putin not to attend was by "mutual agreement," Ramaphosa's office said. Russia will instead be represented at the Aug 22-24 summit by Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. The BRICS economic bloc is made up of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. South Africa had invited the leaders of the other four countries to the summit before Putin's arrest warrant was issued by the ICC in March.



Australian sailor Timothy Lindsay Shaddock, 54, who went adrift with his dog Bella over two months speaks during a welcoming ceremony in his honor after being rescued by a Mexican tuna trawler, in Manzanillo, Mexico.

North Korea fires two missiles after U.S. submarine arrives in S.Korea

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: North Korea launched two ballistic missiles eastward early on Wednesday, Japan's and South Korea's militaries said, just hours after a U.S. ballistic missile submarine arrived in a South Korean port for the first time in four decades.

Both of the missiles appeared to have fallen outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, the Japanese Defence Ministry said.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) called on the North to cease such launches.

"We strongly condemn North Korea's successive ballistic missile launches as grave provocative acts that undermine the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula as well as the international community, and are a clear violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions," the JCS said in a statement.

The U.S. military said it was aware of the missile launches and was consulting closely with its allies and partners.

An American economist is getting a top EU job. France's Macron isn't happy about it

Monitoring Desk
BRUSSELS: With French President Emmanuel Macron insisting the European Union needs more strategic independence, he seemed decidedly piqued on Tuesday over the EU head office's plans to hire an American expert as its chief competition economist.

"Is there really no great European researcher with academic qualifications that could do this job?" Macron asked at a summit of EU leaders with their Latin American counter-

parts. In a bloc of some 450 million people, "is there no one in the 27 member states that has a researcher good enough to advise the (European) Commission? That is a real question mark," Macron said. The EU's executive commission announced last week that it had appointed Yale economics professor Fiona Scott Morton as chief competition economist in its department tasked with ensuring that "all companies compete equally and fairly on their merits within the single market."

Kenyan protesters hurl rocks at police as three-day tax protests begin

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Kenyan protesters hurled rocks at police, which responded with volleys of tear gas, in skirmishes in the country's major cities on Wednesday as three days of demonstrations against high costs of living and tax hikes kicked off. Two water-cannon trucks and dozens of riot police were stationed at the entrance to the Kibera neighbourhood in Nairobi, where protesters burned tires and engaged in running battles with security forces.

Kremlin says it did not tell S.Africa that Putin arrest would mean war

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russia did not tell South Africa that arresting President Vladimir Putin on an arrest warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC) would mean "war", the Kremlin said on Wednesday.

Shortly after the Kremlin's comments, South Africa said that Putin would not attend a summit of the BRICS group of nations in South Africa in August "by mutual agreement." The ICC has accused Putin

and his children's commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova of the war crime of deporting children from Ukraine to Russia, something Moscow rejects as false. A local court submission published on Tuesday had shown that South African President Cyril Ramaphosa had asked permission from the ICC not to arrest Putin in the context of the BRICS summit because to do so would amount to a declaration of war.

At least 16 killed by suspected electrocution in north Indian state

Monitoring Desk
LUCKNOW: At least 16 people were killed and another six injured in a suspected case of electrocution in the north Indian state of Uttarakhhand on Wednesday morning, government officials said. The incident took place inside a sewage treatment plant established in the Himalayan state's Chamoli district as part of a flagship programme of the federal government that focuses on conserving the river Ganga.



Flooded banks of river Yamuna along the Taj Mahal in Agra.

President says: Imam Hussain (RA)'s sacrifice an immortal reminder about fighting oppression, upholding truth

PM urges countrymen to promote tolerance, social justice

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has said that the invaluable sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) is an immortal reminder about challenging the oppression and injustice, and standing firm to uphold truth.

He said the new Islamic year is a reminder that the strength of the nation lies in unity and harmony.

"With a united approach, we can overcome any challenge and make the future of our coming generations bright," he said, in his message to the nation on the advent of new Islamic year 1445 Hijrah.

President Alvi emphasized the need for mainstreaming all segments of society and providing them a level-playing field.

The president said new Islamic year has a great significance for the Muslims all over the world and reminds of the immense sacrifices rendered by their forefathers.

"On this day, we make a pledge to follow the life and teachings of

Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon Him) and implement these in our lives," he said.

He said compassion, justice, unity and kindness are the ethos of Islamic culture and are important to promote harmony and prosperity in the society. The president said Muharram as the first month of the Islamic calendar guides a Muslim to refresh his spiritual journey of life. He said it relates to the month when Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions sacrificed their lives in the battle of Karbala.

Against oppression, the historic event of Karbala is an example of undeterred courage, sacrifice and steadfastness, he added. The president said Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) and his small army of followers fought against the injustice and sacrificed their lives to uphold the sanctity of truth.

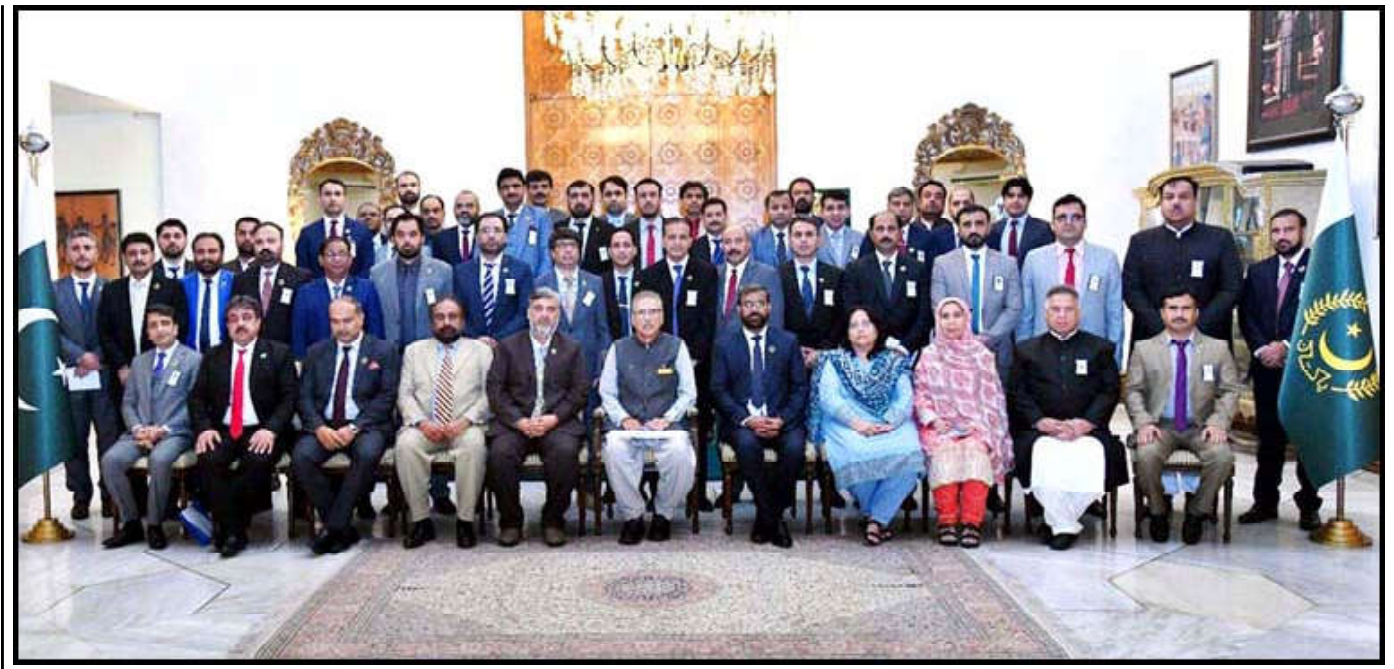
Dr Alvi prayed that may Allah Almighty make

the new Islamic year a source of His blessings for Pakistan, the nation, Islamic community and the entire world.

"May the new Islamic year bring for us the peace, prosperity and happiness and lead us towards a better future ahead," he said.

Meanwhile on the advent of the new Islamic year on Wednesday, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif urged countrymen to strive for emulating the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions besides building a society featuring principles of social justice and equality.

"Let us pledge today that we will strive to emulate the noble qualities established by our Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and his companions. Let us promote tolerance, understanding and respect for each other regardless of our differences. Let us work towards building a society that upholds the principles of social justice, equality and compassion."



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with the participants of the 37th Mid-Career Management Course, Quetta, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan's youth always excelled whenever given opportunities: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the country's youth always proved their mettle at the international level whenever provided the right opportunities. In a tweet, he mentioned his yesterday's launch of a youth sports initiative programme aimed at converging the energies of youth towards a positive direction.

PM Sharif expressed confidence that youth would excel under the patronage of the Prime Minister's Youth Sports Initiative.

He pointed out the shortage of facilities for sportsmen in the country to compete in the games at the international level. The programme would promote sports across the country through the training of talented youth, he added.

The prime minister hoped that future governments would ensure the continuity of the programme in best interest of the youth.

Former principal secretary Azam becomes approver against chairman PTI

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former principal secretary Azam Khan has become approver against PTI chairman. Azam Khan has rejected his statement under 164 before magistrate. In 164 statement charge sheet has been presented against chairman PTI.

Azam Khan termed ciphers a well conceived conspiracy saying cipher had nothing to do with reality. Cipher drama was enacted for political motives. Azam Khan said Imran Khan worked out a

false and baseless narrative by concealing all facts. Color of foreign conspiracy was given to cipher to avert vote of no confidence. He went on to say Imran Khan said he would change the narrative of people by giving wrong color to cipher.

He held "Imran Khan obtained cipher from me on May 09 and later he said cipher has been misplaced when I asked him to return. Imran Khan sowed the seed of hatred among the people against national security institutions.

Pakistan urges reinstatement of S. Asia's strategic balance; Kashmir dispute's resolution

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan has called for re-establishing the strategic balance in South Asia and for moving the region towards peace by promoting a settlement of the decades-old, UN-recognized Kashmir dispute through diplomacy.

"It is important that the strategic balance in South Asia is re-established, along with a quest for peace, so that the region does not remain a potential tinderbox," Masood Khan, Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, told a Conference on Diplomacy for Development in Houston, Texas.

"We should resort to bilateral, third party and multilateral diplomacy to resolve the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and ensure nuclear stability," the Pakistani envoy said in his remarks on: The Future of Pakistan-US Relations: A Way Forward.

The conference, at which senior State Department official Elizabeth Horst was among the noted speakers, was organized by the International Academy of Letters, a think-tank seeking to build bridges through cultural & public diplomacy.

Pointing out that the US had chosen friends within the setting of the Indo-Pacific Strategy, Ambassador Masood Khan noted that "their (US friends) declared vectors of invest, align and compete, we are told are not designed to alienate or confront other countries in the region and beyond."

On its part, he said Pakistan had pursued connectivity through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to leverage its economic geography, declaring, "Our defence and economic ties with China will continue."



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf addressing the closing ceremony of Roundtable of Political Parties on Women's Manifesto 2023 organized by WPC.

Women's political inclusion vital for stable democracy, proactive Parliament: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf on Wednesday said no society could develop without inclusion and active participation of women in all spheres of life.

The political inclusion of women was imperative for a stable democracy and proactive Parliament as those societies remained backward and underdeveloped where they were not encouraged and promoted, he said while addressing the closing ceremony of the two-day "Roundtable of Political Parties on Women's Manifesto", organized by the Women Parliamentary Caucus (WPC) in collaboration with the UN Women.

The NA speaker said the Pakistani women were talented and taking active part in politics. The women parliamentarians had been on the forefront and proac-

tive in the legislative process.

He said the Constitution discouraged gender-based discrimination. He also said that women empowerment should be central goal of manifestos of all political parties.

Raja Pervez said stable politics and a strong Parliament were interlinked with political empowerment of women.

"Women comprise more than 50 percent of population and their representation in politics will strengthen the Parliament and democracy," he added.

He felicitated the organizers on holding a successful roundtable conference and appreciated the consensus evolved on its manifesto.

WPC Secretary Shahida Rehmani, in her remarks, said the Caucus had always been at the forefront to legislate for protection of fundamental women's rights.

Transition Officer inspects municipal services on routes mourning procession

KARACHI (APP): Transition Officer Naveed Khan Kolachi along with Chairman Sohrab Goth Lala Raheem, Chairman Chensar Goth Farhan Ghani inspected the provision of municipal services on the routes of Imambargahs and processions here on Wednesday.

They inspected road carpeting work at Mehfil-e-Murtaza Tariq Road and other municipal works at Ahsanabad, Aziz Brohi Goth and Allah Bakhsh Goth.

On this occasion, Naveed Kolachi said that he is in contact with the town chairmen in the district East and steps are being taken keeping in mind their consultation.

Control room set up for better coordination during Muharram

NAWABSHAH (APP): A district control room has been set up at DC House Camp Office to keep a watch on the current situation and facilitate the general public during Muharram-ul-Haram. The control room would work from 1st Muharram to 8th Muharram following directions of DC Shehryar Gul Memon for better coordination among various wings and facilitate the masses.

The control room has been allotted phone numbers including 02449370337, 02449370334 and fax No 02449370338. PS to DC Zubair Ahmed Mallah has been assigned as In-charge District Control Room with Mobile No 03003211853 and 3332321112 for contact.

CTD starts identification of suicide attacker on FC personnel

PESHAWAR (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Wednesday sent blood samples of suicide attackers on FC personnel for Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) test and identification.

An official of KP police said that the teams of CTD visited the blast site here last night and obtained CCTV footages in the vicinity of Hayatabad and also recorded the statements of the residents near the explosion.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ulama Council and Special Representative of Prime Minister of Pakistan for Interfaith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi series of All Parties National Peace Seminar at Rahmani Islamic Center Model Town hand in hand for peace and unity on the occasion of Muharram.

DC concerned over detection of wild polio virus in environmental sample

HYDERABAD (APP): The Deputy Commissioner of Hyderabad Fuad Ghaffar Soomro has expressed concerns over detection of wild polio virus in an environmental sample from Sohrab Goth area of Karachi.

He expressed these views while presiding over a meeting of the District polio eradication committee to review arrangements made for the upcoming anti-Polio campaign to be started in Hyderabad from August 01 to 08 2023.

DC said that all relevant officers had been directed to take precautionary measures for further spreading of deadly polio virus.

He directed relevant officers to ensure monitoring of entry and exit routes of the city in order to stop the spread of the virus.

He also instructed officers to administer polio drops to a maximum number of children up to 5

years old so that they could be protected from lifetime morbidity.

DC also asked to improve performance in those union councils which showed slow pace and no laxity would be tolerated in this regard.

He instructed to bring the ratio of polio refusal cases to zero and also get help from UC Chairmen and ensure administering routine immunization under EPI Programme so that children could be saved from viral diseases.

On this occasion N Stop officer Dr Bisma Memon giving a briefing to the meeting said that target for administering polio drops in 153 union councils of Hyderabad district has been fixed to 3,800 and for this 84 EPI centers, 1565 mobile teams, 151 fixed teams, 64 transit teams and eight roaming teams had been constituted.

62 Imam Bargahs declared most sensitive, 15000 cops to perform security duties in Muharram

KARACHI (APP): Over 15000 cops would perform security duties in the megapolis during Muharram-ul-Haram under a security plan devised by Karachi Police. 62 Imam Bargahs in city have been declared most sensitive, 305 sensitive while 30 have been declared normal, according to spokesman for Karachi Police.

7500 in district East, 5940 in West and 2297 cops would perform security duties during Muharram-ul-Haram. 448 officers and personnel in Imam Bargahs and 2306 in Majalis would perform security duties in the District East, in District West 506 policemen in Imam Bargahs and 906 in Majalis while in Imam Bargahs of district South 284 in Imam Bargahs while 783 officers and personnel in Majalis.

Man onboard PIA flight from Dubai dies of cardiac arrest

KARACHI (INP): A Pakistani International Airlines (PIA) flight headed to Islamabad from Dubai witnessed an unfortunate incident when a passenger onboard died of cardiac arrest. According to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), a male passenger named Malik Jahanzaib onboard the PIA flight PK-222 suffered a stroke mid-flight due to a heart attack.



PESHAWAR: View of site after traffic accident after four buses and two cars collided with each other, at Motorway in Peshawar.

Senator Gillani emphasizes significance of democracy, human rights & rule of law

LONDON (APP): Senator Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, on Wednesday stressed for advancing democratic principles, human rights, rule of law, tolerance, equality, and called for duly protecting rights of Kashmiri and Palestinian people, and opposing authoritarian populism.

Addressing the inaugural seminar at Society of Lincoln's Inn Old Court Room, Senator Yousaf Gillani reiterated his commitment to promoting human rights, safeguarding independence of the judiciary, and ensuring media freedom.

He discussed how his actions as Prime Minister, had been geared towards upholding these principles within the context of democracy and human rights.

He also stressed to address the challenges, being faced by Kashmiri and

Palestinian people and called for international support in upholding their rights. He warned against authoritarian populism and urged the world to protect the rights of migrants.

"As a Senator and former Prime Minister of Pakistan, I am deeply honored to speak at this prestigious occasion, hosted by the Society of Lincoln's Inn — an institution known for its excellence in legal education. I am grateful for the opportunity to address this esteemed gathering and express my admiration for the institution's commitment to nurturing responsible and thoughtful legal professionals."

After undergoing six-year imprisonment by a dictator's regime, he was sworn in as the Prime Minister in 2008, with his convictions, vindicated by both the courts and people's support.



LARKANA: Rangers and Police officials are patrolling in city as security has been tightened in city on the arrival of Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram, in Larkana.

DC, SSP review Muharram-ul-Haram arrangements

NAWABSHAH (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shehryar Gul Memon accompanied by SSP Mehzoor Ali Ghouri visited different towns of tehsil Sakrand and Qazi Ahmed inspected the arrangements made for Muharram procession routes and Imambargahs. They met with the administration of Muharram and enquired about their issues and problems.

Talking to administrators, DC said that instructions are already issued to concerned officials for sanitation improvement and

immediate removal of encroachments.

He said that all possible arrangements are being made for improvement in cleanliness and providing facilities to mourners.

DC also instructed Assistant Commissioner Sakrand and Qazi Ahmed tehsils to ensure facilities for mourning processions and religious programs.