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Imran Niazi's corruption, bad governance cause of economic malaise: PM

Slams Imran for instilling despair, avows 'no mercy' for May 9 doers; Premier Shehbaz Sharif feels satisfied with preventing default despite harming political capital; Urges masses to defeat political masquerades of PTI in elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said Imran Niazi was responsible for current economic difficulties as he destabilized the country's system for his vested political interests, committed massive corruption, badly governed, undermined relations with friendly countries and grossly violated agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) before the vote of no confidence against him.

In an interview with a private television, he said Imran Niazi damaged relations with friendly, brotherly countries including Saudi Arabia, United Arab

Emirates and China. "Imran Niazi falsely accused me of corruption of 45 percent in Chinese assisted projects and damaged relations with China," he remarked.

He said corruption was rife during the tenure of Imran Niazi and every day a new scandal of corruption surfaced, including sugar, wheat and Malam Jabba scams.

The prime minister said the coalition partners assumed government in very difficult conditions and with great efforts his government succeeded in securing the IMF programme, after getting consent of Nawaz Sharif.

He said the most difficult matters he dealt with during his government were the revival of IMF agreement, devastating floods, price hikes, restoration of ties with friendly countries and appointment of army chief.

Talking about inflation, he said price hikes were caused by skyrocketing commodity and fuel prices in the international markets and the Ukraine war.

His party saved the state at the cost of its politics, he emphasized, admitting that due to price hikes the popularity of the his coalition government suffered and political capital

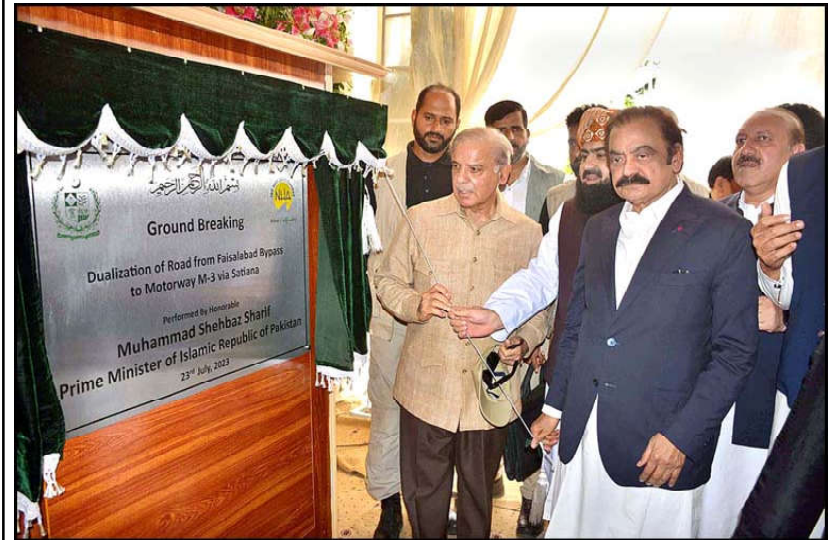
was exhausted. He said the government brought cheap oil from Russia and now was importing liquefied natural gas from Azerbaijan at a lower cost to provide much needed relief to the people. He recalled that Imran Niazi did not buy gas from the international market at the rate of three dollars, and the negligence added to the economic difficulties of the people.

He said May 9 was an anti-state activity and was an internal conspiracy led by Imran Niazi and his associates who attacked installations of armed forces.

The incident of May 9 was similar to the attack of Indian air force in Febru-

ary, 2019 which was foiled by the brave pilots of Pakistan Air Force and ended in capture of the Indian pilot Abhinandan, he continued.

The May 9 attacks were organized and were preplanned for more than a year and was an evil attempt and conspiracy to instigate a coup in the army and against its chief, he stressed. He said Allah Almighty failed the conspiracy as people and army were united, people stayed away from the violent acts and only few groups of thugs violated the sanctity of monuments of army, adding the whole nation was tearful on these anti-state activities against the armed forces.



FAISALABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif is unveiling the plaque during ground breaking ceremony for dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway (M-3) via Satiana.

Announcing polls in Pak is encouraging: US

WASHINGTON (Online): US principle deputy assistant secretary of state for south and central Asia Elizabeth Horst said there is no immediate solution to Pakistan's economic situation but IMF agreement will help to control chaos.

She said holding election announcement in Pakistan is welcoming and encouraging.

We hope for free, fair and peaceful election in Pakistan: Elizabeth Horst

Talking to Pakistani journalists living in Washington she said we support International Monetary Fund (IMF) stand-by arrangement. This will give Pakistan breathing space.

Pakistan's bureau head in US state department said Pakistan should continue his program with IMF,

there is solution but not immediate solution.

She accepted that upcoming days are very hard for Pakistan's people but they have to go through this tough phase to stabilise their economy.

She said I make sure to Pakistanis that America and Pakistan has long term relations and this situation will not affect it. US senior official said incumbent government election announcement is hopeful for America when this party is no one's favorite in Pakistan.

Further she maintained that people of Pakistan will decide to whom they chose in election. We don't support one party against other, we support rule of law and democracy in Pakistan.

Pakistan and US did

\$9 billion bilateral trade in 2022 and this volume makes Pakistan biggest partner of US, she added.

She added many statistics and proved that Pakistan's various US companies invested \$250 million in Pakistan. 20 thousand Pakistani are employed in US companies.

US provided \$ 215 million for flood affectees in 2022 and \$33 million which were sent by Pakistan Americans are separate, she added.

US official said US aided more than \$20 billion to Pakistan in last 20 years.

He said last year we did trade and investment framework agreement (TIFA) meeting after eight years, and negotiated for climate, energy and health sector.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over the meeting to review law and order situation in the province.

CM Murad directs prompt measures to ensure law and order in province

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah has directed the authorities concerned to take prompt measures for maintaining law and order situation in the province.

Presiding over a meeting here Sunday to review the state of law and order, he directed the police to maintain the law and order in all of Sindh's districts.

The meeting also dis-

cussed the actions that must be performed to maintain law and order in Muharram.

Among others who attended the meeting included Sindh Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Karachi Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab, Chief Secretary Dr Muhammad Sohail Rajput, and IG police Ghulam Nabi Memon.



KARACHI: Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) President Maulana Fazalur Rehman addresses a protest rally held in connection with desecration of holy Quran in Sweden outside Karachi Press Club.

Pakistan thrashes India to lift Emerging Asia Cup trophy

Sufiyan Muqem spins Pakistan to victory with three important wickets

SPORTS DESK COLOMBO: All round Pakistan Shaheens defeated India A by 128 runs in the final played in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Sunday to lift the Emerging Asia Cup.

Chasing a target of 353 runs, India were dismissed for 224 runs in 40 overs Spinner Sufiyan Muqem caused all kinds of troubles for the Men in Blue by taking three important wickets including opener Abhishek Sharma, who scored 61, captain Yash Dull, who was set at 39 off 41, and Harshit Rana, 13, while conceding 66 runs in 10 overs, Mehran Mumtaz, Mohammad Wasim and Arshad Iqbal claimed two wickets each.

For India, opener Abhishek Sharma was the top run-scorer with 61 runs in 51 balls. Earlier, Pakistan

A had set India A target of 353 runs on a good batting surface. Middle-order batter Tayyab Tahir scored a brilliant century to help Pakistan post a massive total on the board after being asked to bat first. Pakistan were in a precarious position after losing five wickets for just 187 runs but Tahir took the attack to the Indian bowlers and scored 108 runs in only 71 balls with the help of 12 fours and four sixes. He had an impressive strike-rate of 152.11.

Pakistan had got off to a strong start with openers Sahibzada Farhan (65 off 62) and Saim Ayub (59 off 51) scoring fifties and adding 121 runs for the first wicket. However, India bounced back with quick wickets in the middle overs.

Governor meets Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Sunday met Pakistan Muslim League Functional (PML-F) leader and former federal minister Pir Syed Sadaruddin Shah Rashidi at his residence.

They discussed the political situation of the Sindh province, the role of all stakeholders, and other issues of mutual interest.

Kamran Tessori said that the role of Pir Pagara's family had an important role in the politics of the province.

PM expresses deep grief over death of Sheikh Muhammad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday expressed his deep grief over the passing away of Sheikh Muhammad bin Hamad bin Abdullah bin Jassim Al Thani, a senior member of the royal family of Qatar.

On his Twitter handle, the prime minister said "I extend my deepest condolences to H.H. Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar and the bereaved family. May Allah rest the departed soul in eternal peace!"



COLOMBO: A group photo of Pakistan Shaheens after winning ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup after beating India in the final.

FM Bilawal says Turkiye role in securing grain deal commendable

ISLAMABAD (INP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has expressed his resolve to work with Turkiye and other Islamic countries to prevent incidents of desecration of the Holy Quran.

In a tweet on Sunday, he strongly condemned the acts of desecration of the Holy Quran in several European cities.

Bilawal Bhutto also



KARACHI: Inspirational Leadership award being given to Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori on eve of 46th FPCCI Export Award ceremony. Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar and Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali are also present.

Desecration of Holy Quran is unacceptable: Fazl

KARACHI (APP): Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) Chief, Maulana Fazalur Rehman on Sunday termed the desecration of Holy Quran in Sweden as an open war against the Muslim Ummah.

While addressing a protest demonstration against the desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden, outside the Karachi Press Club (KPC), he said that the desecration of the Muslims' Holy book would never be tolerated.

He said that the Muslims knew how to protect the Holy Quran. Maulana urged the Muslim country to call back their ambassadors from Sweden.

Emergency declared in Lower, Upper Chitral 9 killed in rain-related incidents in KP

MONITORING DESK PESHAWAR: At least nine people were killed in rain-related incidents in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa over the last 48 hours due to heavy rainfall while an emergency was declared in the province's Lower and Upper Chitral districts till August 15. Heavy rain with strong winds and thunder-



COLOMBO: A group photo of Pakistan Shaheens after winning ACC Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup after beating India in the final.

Senate, NA to meet today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Upper and Lower house of parliament to meet today (Monday) in parliament house today.

According to notification issued by Senate secretary, senate session will take place at 3pm today with Chairman Sadiq Sanjrani in chair in parliament house.

Agenda of session has been issued.

National Assembly (NA) session which was postponed on last Friday will meet today (Monday) at 5pm with speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in chair.

ECP order to remove interim KP minister Shahid Khattak

PESHAWAR (Online): Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) ordered immediate removal of interim minister Shahid khattak of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Shahid Khattak made political speech in open court yesterday and criticised former Chief Minister Pervaiz Khattak.

ECP took notice of his speech and ordered his removal.

It is worth mentioning that few days ago ECP removed interim minister Adnan Jalil from cabinet who was from ANP (Awami National Party).

Karachi witnesses sharp increase in street crimes

KARACHI (INP): The economic hub of Pakistan, is grappling with a crime wave. According to a latest Citizens Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) report, over 45,000 incidents of robbery were reported within the span of six months, from 1st January to 30th June. In addition, more than 70 citizens were killed for retaliating during robbery, with hundreds of others wounded.

The CPLC report also revealed that approximately 300 individuals lost their lives in various violent incidents, involving personal animosities and other disputes.

More new buses arrive in city: Sharjeel

INDEPENDENT REPORT

KARACHI: Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit Sindh, Sharjeel Inam Memon, has once again announced good news for the public and said that a new batch of buses has arrived in Karachi, and new routes are scheduled to commence in just a few days.

In his statement released on social media, Sharjeel Inam Memon mentioned that the arrival of the new buses will significantly improve transportation convenience for the people of Karachi. Furthermore, he revealed that additional batches of buses are expected to reach Karachi in both August and October, further enhancing the public transportation system.

Sharjeel Inam Memon further emphasized that the Sindh government's mission, along with the promises and services of the People's Party, will be steadfastly continued in the realm of transportation.

Sharmila hails treatment facilities at NICH

INDEPENDENT REPORT

KARACHI: Pakistan Peoples Party MPA Ms Sharmila Farooqui visited child cancer and other patients at National Institute of Child Health (NICH) in Karachi, inquired about their health and presented gifts to them.



During the visit, Sharmila mingled with the patients, including six-year-old Zoya and one-year-old Jaffar, and expressed sympathy with them. She was briefed by Director NICH Dr Nasir Suddle about the treatment facilities being provided to the child patients at the Institute, according to a statement issued on Sunday.

Talking to NICH director, Sharmila praised the Oncology treatment and Neonatal ICU facility and appreciated the working of medical staff. She said NICH is the largest government hospital for children of Pakistan catering to the needs of patients from all over Sindh as well as Balochistan.

PPP propose protocol reduction for CJP, COAS

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan People Party secretary general Nayyar Bukhari has proposed reduction in protocol of Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) and Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

He also proposed protocol reduction of high court judges and heads of defence institutes.

Former Chairman Senate also proposed 50% reduction in provision of electricity, petrol of Chief Ministers (CM) and gov-

ernors of four provinces, federal and provincial ministers. According to media reports Syed Nayyar Bukhari said elite class should set an example of sacrifices to relief the huge population of country. PPP believes on more and more relief to lesser the problems of people.

He also demand that electricity price should not be increased for upto 300unite consumers of middle and lower class of the country.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Hapless province

Balochistan presents a variety of complications spawned by the historical neglect of its people's rights and the perverse determination to press on with ruinous security-centric policies. The ferocious conflict that has engulfed Wadh, Khuzdar district, since Wednesday — although a tenuous ceasefire is currently in place — is another manifestation of the same.

On the surface, it is a feud sparked by notorious outlaw Shafiq Mengal's men forcibly occupying land belonging to tribal chief and BNP-M president Akhtar Mengal. With both sides heavily armed, an extended confrontation could lead to things spinning further out of control. Former chief minister Aslam Raisani has stepped in to broker peace.

However, as Akhtar Mengal himself said in a bluntly worded tweet, this is part of a far bigger problem, that it does not pertain to a specific area or a particular tribe but is an outcome of the shocking impunity with which 'death squads' have been allowed to operate in Balochistan.

Indeed, no lasting solution to the conflict can be found if individuals like Shafiq Mengal remain 'in play'. He was part of the state's response to the Baloch insurgency, whereby extremist groups and tribal militias — such as his Baloch Musalla Difa Tanzeem — were given carte blanche to hunt down separatists.

Had there been any rule of law in Balochistan, instead of short-sighted policies that generated cycles of bestial violence, Shafiq Mengal and his gang would not have been able to commit the serious crimes they are alleged to be involved in, including murder, robbery and kidnapping for ransom. Locals still refuse to speak on the record about that reign of terror in Khuzdar district during which journalists, teachers and doctors were slain in targeted killings. It was only after the public outcry over the discovery in Tootak of mass graves of missing people, with evidence suggesting his group's involvement in the crime, that he was reportedly asked to step back. But he remained free. In fact, Shafiq Mengal was a candidate in the 2018 elections for the National Assembly seat from Khuzdar — further evidence of a political landscape engineered to a point where it bears little resemblance to a representative democracy. After all, even sardars like Akhtar Mengal, who won the seat, need to be reminded of the limits to their power.

Underlying all these machinations is the real tragedy being endured by the people of Balochistan. Among the most backward and regressive areas of the province, Khuzdar district has a deeply entrenched tribal culture. Neocolonial policies of divide and rule have exacerbated the existing problems. What will it take for the state to place the people of Balochistan, their right to provincial autonomy and ownership of the natural resources that lie beneath their soil, above its own narrow interests?



Muna Khan

My social media timeline was recently filled with images of Bollywood actors Zeenat Aman and Rekha on the covers of Vogue India and Arabia, respectively. Folks gushed at how incredible the women looked at their age — 71 and 69, respectively. I couldn't help but feel the praise was filled with a dash of disbelief; that they could be this age and still look good. It's indicative of how society expects women to age, but also a reminder that women tend to get erased from screens post 50, so seeing them slay (slang for 'impressing') is cause for celebration.

I don't mean to be cynical here. Aman joining Instagram has been one of the best things to happen on social media. She says her children had been telling her to join Instagram because she loves writing, and while she wondered, "isn't this a young person's game?", she caved. "This isn't a comeback, but it is something of a coming around," she wrote in a post.

I believe Aman has a much higher rate of engagement than the current lot of leading Bollywood actors because her content is real. Whether it's sharing stories about working in the 1970s, or about adopting dogs — and then resharing other people's pictures — she's not shilling products, projects or plasticity. "There was far more interest in my face and figure than there ever was in my intellect," she wrote in Vogue. "This is one reason that I have loved ageing — it has

evened the scales." Rekha, who has not accepted any role since 2014, said of her Vogue shoot that "I am amazed at what one photoshoot can do, but I also realise that the success of it has to come from a deep place of honesty, pure intentions, originality, and consistency, every step of the way."

Wisen up

Their words are resonating — across ages. Over in the West, media entrepreneur Martha Stewart became the oldest model at 81 to appear on the cover of a Sports Illustrated swimsuit edition. Seinfeld alum Julia Louis Dreyfus' podcast *Wiser than Me*, a series of interviews with acclaimed older women in the arts, has featured on the best podcast lists so far this year. The publishing world has woken up to unpublished women aged 60, who "are now at a premium" wrote the Guardian.

While I'm happy to see progress since Susan Sontag wrote about "the double standards of ageing" in 1972, I'm also a little cautious. "An instrument of oppression," wrote Sontag, "is the social convention that ageing enhances a man but progressively destroys a woman." Women must destroy that convention to "liberate themselves".

While I laud Aman for doing just that, I'm concerned that an older woman's worth is still tied to her youthful appearance. I worry the celebration is a trend for the sake of representation or inclusivity to sell magazines, books, movies, etc. No real change can come about if capitalism gets its hands on it. There was a time, not too long ago, when people didn't record birth dates; growing older wasn't about clinging onto youth at whatever cost.

I look forward to the 'older women moment' hitting Pakistan's shores and screens, provided it's organic and not sponsored by the very industry that creates unrealistic standards. I'm hopeful. There was an outpouring of support for actors Samina Ahmed and Manzar Sehbai when they married in 2020, and I would love for it to translate to watching dramas where older women are in charge of their lives; ie, not dependent on men. There was that TV commercial for a mattress in 2020 which showed adult children marrying their mother off — which was different to the usual hysteria around anything related to a woman's choice.

I believe it's a woman's choice not to care or conform that ripples people. "As they do grow older and more mature in their careers, [women] lose some of the fear of speaking their mind. And certain men don't like that," said gender equality researcher Amy Diehl in a report for Harvard Business Review in June. Misogyny happens at every stage of a woman's career, the authors found. "Women under 40 in the study saw their experience and credibility dismissed because of their age, while women between 40 and 60 continued to experience gendered ageism, too," they wrote.

I understand the pressure to look youthful is no longer limited to people in the entertainment industry. My friends recently recounted how regular folks are being advised to get fillers sooner than later, as if ageing is a terrible fate. It's not. Women have other choices, wrote Sontag. "They can let themselves age naturally and without embarrassment, actively protesting and disobeying the conventions that stem from this society's double standard about ageing ... Women should allow their faces to show the lives they have lived. Women should tell the truth." — Courtesy Dawn

Marriage rights



Tahera Hasan

Marriage is a sacred partnership that brings individuals together. However, what is mostly overlooked in our society and culture is the fact that it is also a legal contract that governs the rights and responsibilities of both partners.

In Pakistan, the nikahnama is a crucial document that outlines the terms of a marriage. However, despite its significance, a lack of awareness prevails among women regarding their rights contained in this document. Where there is awareness, there is a fear of social and cultural implications of advocating for their rights at the time of marriage. When the bride or any person on behalf of the bride engages in negotiation or asserts her rights, it is often frowned upon and perceived as socially inappropriate.

The nikahnama, also known as the marriage contract, serves as a legal agreement between the bride and groom in Pakistan. It is signed by the couple, the officiating cleric and witnesses during the wedding ceremony. The document details various essential elements, including the haq mehr, rights of divorce and maintenance. However, the lack of awareness among women about the contents of the nikahnama invariably leads to unfortunate outcomes and a significant power imbalance in a marriage.

Pakistani law recognises the rights of both spouses and the nikahnama is a clear indication of this. However, the patriarchal norms deeply entrenched in Pakistani society and culture often re-

sult in women being unaware of their legal rights and entitlements. The right to consent, maintenance and inheritance are fundamental rights that women should be aware of and assert in their marriages. Unfortunately, due to cultural and societal pressures, many women find it challenging to exercise their rights, leading to various forms of discrimination, abuse and inequality within marriages.

One of the primary reasons for the lack of awareness among women regarding their rights is the absence of proper education, information, and social and cultural barriers. In many cases, women are not adequately informed about the terms and conditions mentioned in the nikahnama. This ignorance places them at a disadvantage, as they may unknowingly relinquish their rights or agree to unfair terms that are contrary to their best interests.

Such a lack of awareness perpetuates a cycle of gender inequality and reinforces the subjugation of women within marriages. Furthermore, even in situations where women are economically empowered, educated and aware, they are unable to protect themselves through what is, for all intents and purposes, a prenuptial agreement.

In addition to promoting awareness campaigns that focus on women's rights, it is crucial to also target and address men in these initiatives. By doing so, we can work towards fostering a change of mindset and awareness in society.

Engaging with young men is particularly vital, as they represent the future generation and have the potential to drive significant societal transformation. One of the primary objectives of these awareness campaigns should be to sensitise and educate men along with

women about women's rights as enshrined in both legal frameworks and religious beliefs. Currently, there exists a great deal of misinformation and misunderstanding surrounding these rights. By equipping men and women with accurate information and fostering empathy and understanding, we can lay the foundation for substantial progress in gender equality.

The nikahnama plays a crucial role in defining the terms and conditions of a marriage. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness among women about their rights contained in this document perpetuates gender inequality and reinforces their subjugation.

Empowering women through education, legal aid and community engagement is essential to creating a society where women can agitate for and protect their rights. The evolution of social and cultural norms regarding women's rights within a marriage is a process that faces considerable resistance and cannot be achieved overnight. However, heightened awareness is crucial to empowering women so that they can acknowledge and assert their rights.

By striving for a better understanding of the nikahnama, Pakistani women can protect themselves. Furthermore, by actively involving men in awareness campaigns and discussions that focus on women's rights, we can pave the way for a more just and equal society.

Empowering men with knowledge and sensitivity is paramount if we want to dismantle harmful gender norms, dispel misinformation, and ultimately realise a future that embraces equality for everyone. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Attracting foreign investment vital to save livelihood of millions: Mian Anjum

LAHORE (INP): Chairman Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Mian Anjum Nisar has said that with energy cost continuing to escalate, the new investment challenges keeping on burdening the already weak economic landscape in the country, as the FDI in FY23 was down by 25 percent annually.

In a statement on Sunday, he asked the government to take concrete steps to attract foreign investment, saving the livelihood of millions of workers associated with various sectors.

Anjum Nisar observed that the focus should be on streamlining the long-standing structural bottlenecks in

the investment climate such as streamlining the FDI approval process. At the same time stability in the country's economic and political scenario is critical for any resurgence of investment in the country. Poor economic and political climate have been additional factors in bogging down the business and investment in the country over the last one year. Quoting the data, he said that the FDI in June more than halved to \$114 million from \$271 million in the same month a year ago while net FDI in FY23 has declined continuously over the last 4 years and was the weakest in FY23.

What is worrisome is the fact that the consecutive decline over the last 4 years was also seen in FDI inflows with weakest FDI

inflows in FY23 over the last 4 years. He said that the economic crisis has forced the global investors to put their new investment plans on hold, foreign direct investment (FDI) was 25% lower than the investment registered last year.

He said there is no visible improvement in employment while the small and medium industries (SMEs) — the main providers of jobs are struggling because of lack of funds and demand.

The BMP chairman said that the larger industries are also operating partially.

Textile sector that was the major provider of permanent and daily wage jobs has lost 50 percent of both domestic and export market.

SECP registers 27,746 new companies in FY 2022-23 with 5% increase

LAHORE (APP): Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) registered 27,746 new companies in the FY 2022-23 showing an increase of around 5 percent as compared to the previous fiscal year.

According to SECP official source, due to the policy and performance of incumbent government, the total number of registered companies now increased to 196,805.

As a result of end-to-end digitization of the company incorporation process, about 99.8 percent companies were registered online while 1,256 foreign users were registered from overseas, the source added.

The total capitalization (paid-up-capital) with regard to newly incorporated companies for the FY 2022-23 stood at Rs 36.6 billion.



Senior Member Board of Revenue Nabeel Javed being briefed during his surprised visit to Revenue Department Bhawalpur.

SAARC- Conference Durable peace must to achieve economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Durability is indeed a key factor for success in any region, including South Asia especially for economic growth and social prosperity as well as human development.

This was stated by former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry Iftikhar Ali Malik on Sunday, while speaking as a chief guest at a seminar on "Peace a key to stability in South Asia".

The event was held under the aegis of IT

Professionals headed by Mian Faiz Bukhsh, said a press release issued here today.

"South Asia is a diverse and vibrant region comprising countries such as Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Maldives," he added.

"While the region has immense potential for economic growth, technological advancements, and social development, several conflicts and tensions have

hindered its progress," he observed.

He said, "Peaceful conditions are essential for economic growth and investment. When there is stability and security, businesses can flourish, trade can thrive, and foreign investments can flow into the region."

He said, "Peaceful relations promote the development of infrastructure, industries, and a conducive business environment, ultimately leading to economic success."

Rs7.5/unit raise in power tariff harmful for businesses, must be reversed: PIAF

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Pakistan Industrial and Traders Associations Front (PIAF) Faheemur Rehman Saigol declared the government's decision to increase electricity base tariff by Rs7.50 per unit harmful for the trade and industry, as the businesses are already under financial stress, urged the government to reverse the proposed jump in power charges.

In a statement issued here on Sunday, he said the government's decision to increase the electricity tariff is anti-industry, and the PIAF strongly condemns the

government's move and calls on it to rescind it. He urged the power ministry to identify system constraints and communicate targets to all concerned departments in order to launch a wartime effort to upgrade the transmission system.

Govt should patronize mango orchards at national level

MULTAN (INP) Mango trees should be given the status of a national tree and steps should be taken to increase mango exports as it will not only help earn foreign exchange but also improve the living standard of peasants.

This was recommended by different speakers including Chairman Seraikistan Council Zahoore Dharajia, Malik Allah Nawaz Wanis, Saleem Darbari, Aamir Shehzad, and many others in a seminar on Mangos, here. Chairman Seraikistan Council Zahoore Dharajia lamented that mango orchards were being ignored continuously.

Minister says: Modern irrigation system becomes indispensable for agricultural self-sufficiency

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Irrigation Haji Fazal Elahi on Sunday said that modern irrigation system has become indispensable for agricultural self-sufficiency, while the construction of canals and dams can make more barren land arable and this is among the top priorities of the government.

He revealed that the federal government has given us a formula for the distribution of the water of the Indus River among the four provinces under the

IRSA Act. According to this act, he said, our province's share is 8.78 million cubic feet (14 per cent), but due to the lack of an active canal system, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa cannot use its share of water property.

He added that Chashma Right Bank Canal (CRBC) Lift Low Gravity project has been approved with the federal and provincial partnership, the cost of which being shared by our province is 35%, but due to a lack of resources.



QUETTA: A vendor arranging seasonal fruits on his van to attract customers.

China dominated Pakistan's FDI with \$432.7 million in FY 23

ISLAMABAD (INP): In the Financial Year 2023 (from July 2022 to June 2023), Pakistan received the highest Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) worth US\$ 432.7 million from China, Gwadar Pro reported on Sunday quoting the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)'s latest figures. In FY 2023, Pakistan received \$1.4377 billion in FDI with China leading with 30.09% of the total FDI coming to the country.

As per SBP, the FDI inflows/outflows include cash received for investment in equity, intercompany loan, capital equipment brought in/out, equity in accounts abroad, and reinvested earnings.

In FY 2023, the total inflow from China remained at \$475.3 million, the outflow was \$43.1 million, net FDI was \$432.2 million, net foreign portfolio investment (FPI) was \$0.5 million and the total FDI remained at \$432.7 million.

FPI consists of securities and other financial assets held by investors in another country. Along with FDI, FPI is one of the common ways to invest in overseas economies. In June 2023, Pakistan also received \$5.8 million from Hong Kong bringing the total FDI from Hong Kong to \$96.6 million in FY 23.



CHINIOT: A farmer busy in seedling rice crop in his field along Lahore Road.

Kashif for strengthening local manufacturing sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis on Sunday stressed the need for developing and strengthening of local manufacturing sector as a sound manufacturing sector of a country can produce quality goods.

Besides, it helps in reducing reliance on foreign products to reduce imports and promote self-sufficiency, he said while talking to a delegation of industrialists led by

Faran Shahid. He said a well-developed manufacturing sector can help a country diversify its economic base, adding that over-reliance on a few sectors can make an economy vulnerable to external shocks, whereas a diverse economy is more resilient.

The thriving manufacturing industry can act as a catalyst for economic growth, job creation, and technological progress, he remarked.

Cabinet reviews flood situation, precautionary arrangements

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi presided over an emergency meeting of Punjab Cabinet at CM Office on Sunday in which latest flood situation and preparations as well as precautionary arrangements with regard to spilling water in rivers by India was reviewed.

Secretary Irrigation apprised during the briefing that water level was increasing in the dams being built by India at River Ravi and Sutlej while the dam being built at Ravi was filled with 90 percent water and the dam built at Sutlej was filled with 70 percent of water.

The cabinet was informed that more rains were expected in the catchment areas of Ravi and Sutlej while India may spill more water in these rivers as there was a threat of flooding in both the rivers.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi ordered Irrigation department, PDMA, Rescue 1122 and the administration to remain alert with regard to the latest flood situation and spilling of water by India. He directed to prepare a plan to timely evacuate the population residing inside the bed of River Ravi and Sutlej.

Mohsin Naqvi while ordering all commissioners to take precautionary measures on an emergency

basis stated that all preemptive measures should be given a final shape for the safety of village people present inside the bed of both rivers.

The CM asserted that no negligence or lapse would be tolerated under any circumstance with regard to timely evacuation of the people.

He directed that Commissioner Lahore and other divisional commissioners should ensure implementation of the formulated plan in case of an emergency. He directed that the administration should constitute mobile teams to provide edibles and medical facilities to affectees.



LAHORE: Ambassador of France Nicolas Galey meeting with Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi at CM Office.

Jamal visits city to review Monsoon arrangements

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division, Liaquat Ali Chatta, Director General, Rawalpindi Development Authority, Saif Anwar Jappa, Deputy Commissioner Hasan Waqar Cheema, Managing Director Water and Sanitation Agency Muhammad Tanveer and other officers concerned were present on the occasion.

The Advisor and Provincial Minister said that there was a possibility of heavy rains so, all the departments concerned should remain alert round the clock.

As per police spokesperson, three cases of Punjab police martyrs including Head Constable Muhammad Imran of Special Branch Lahore, Constable Muntaz Ahmed of Lahore, Constable Nisar Ahmed of Toba Tek Singh were sent to Home Department Punjab for obtaining martyr package. Dr. Usman Anwar sent the three cases to the Punjab government on recommendations of Compensation Award Committee of the Welfare Branch which was held at Central Police Office (CPO) under the supervision of Additional Inspector General Finance and Welfare Riaz Nazir Gara.

Martyrs package Cases of 3 police martyrs sent to Pb govt

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar is actively working for the welfare of the heirs of police martyrs and in the same continuity, the cases of three personnel who were martyred during duty have been sent to the Punjab government for getting martyr package.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates rehabilitation of Faisalabad Circular Road.

SCN approaches Sherry for halting indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Sarhad Conservation Nature (SCN), a non-governmental organization striving for conservation of environment, culture and heritage, has approached Federal Minister for Climate Change, Sherry Rehman to take notice of planned and indiscriminate cutting of forest trees in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) over the pretext of diseased and windfallen trees.

Climate Change on Sunday, the SCN office bearers urged Sherry Rehman to divert her attention to a matter of grave concern that requires her immediate attention and intervention.

"It has come to our organization's attention that certain senior officials within the Provincial Forest Department of KP are engaged in the indiscriminate cutting down of forest trees in specific parts of the province," reads the letter.

The SCN is committed to preserving and safeguarding our natural resources, including the invaluable forests that contribute significantly to the reduction of Greenhouse Gases as well as the well-being of the environment, climate change and society, it added. Showing its concerns, the SCN observed the tree felling activities appear to have been initiated without any transparent and accountable assessment, consultation, or public disclosure.

Govt committed for promotion of backward areas: Advisor Zafar

PESHAWAR (APP): Advisor to Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology Zafar Mehmood on Sunday said that the caretaker government was using all available resources for the welfare of the people so that the people of backward and remote areas could get basic facilities and all their legitimate rights in time.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is becoming a hub for domestic and foreign tourists

CM inquires after 8 year girl patient

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Bahria Orchard Hospital to inquire after eight year old girl Noor Fatima who underwent a successful cardiac operation.

CM Mohsin Naqvi met with the little girl and saw her off for her home and gave gifts to her. He expressed his affection with the little girl on regaining complete health after undergoing a successful cardiac operation. Mother of the little girl thanked CM Mohsin Naqvi and the hospital administration for providing excellent treatment and care.

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CM KP for urgent relief measures in rains hit areas

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Azam Khan on Sunday issued strict directives to the relief department and district administrations to remain on high alert and provide relief to people of the area hit by torrential rains and flash floods.

The chief minister also directed relevant officials to ensure immediate assistance to those affected by the heavy downpours. He said that rescue and relief operations must be promptly

launched to ensure the safety and well-being of the affected population as the situation demands urgent attention. People in the distress should be provided immediate relief and support. We must take all necessary measures to ensure their safety and well being, he said. The chief minister further assured that the caretaker provincial government would leave no stone unturned in providing every possible assistance to those facing difficulties during this challenging hour.

Promotions of officers, personnel in Punjab Police continues

LAHORE (APP): On the instructions of Inspector General Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar, the process of promotion of officers and personnel in all ranges and districts of the province is continuing without interruption.

In this regard, 89 more officers and personnel have been promoted as per the rules and regulations. Punjab police spokesman said here on Sunday that according to merit and

seniority, 89 personnel were promoted to the rank of sub-inspector and ASI, 51 ASIs and 38 head constables are included among those who were promoted. In the ongoing next phase of promotion, 7,000 personnel who meet the rules and regulations are being promoted and after Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur, Gujranwala and Faisalabad, promotions have also been completed in Sargodha.

SDMA warns people to refrain from visiting flooded streams, rivers

MIRPUR (APP): After the torrential rains hits various parts of the AJK, the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) Saturday warned people living close to the seasonal nullahs and streams to refrain from visiting the flooded ponds, rivers and streams as the main spell of the torrential rains have begun in various parts of the State.

According to the information, various parts of the AJK state lashed with torrential rains that

played havoc in various areas including Mirpur district especially in the New City and various adjoining slums in various parts of this district, official sources confirmed.

Mirpur went in the grip of heavy rainfall since about the last midnight of the day breaking the hot spell to a greater extent besides turning various low-lying areas into ponds and seasonal nullahs flooded with the rainy water.

International News

Iran's Khamenei says Sweden in 'battle-array' over Koran desecrations

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said that people who desecrate the Koran should face the "most severe punishment" and Sweden has "gone into battle-array for war on the Muslim world" by supporting those responsible.

Protests have raged across Iran and Iraq after Sweden allowed the burning of the Koran under rules protecting free speech. Protesters in Iraq set alight the Swedish embassy in Baghdad on Thursday.

An Iraqi immigrant to Sweden burned a Koran outside a Stockholm mosque last month. Protesters in Sweden kicked and partially destroyed a book they said was the Koran outside the Iraqi embassy in Stockholm on Thursday, but did not burn it as they had threatened to do, Reuters witnesses said.

Swedish officials have deplored the acts but said they cannot prevent them.

Iran's state media reported that Khamenei had demanded Sweden hand

over those responsible for prosecution in Islamic countries.

"All Islamic scholars agree that those who desecrate the Koran deserved the most severe punishment... The duty of that (Swedish) government is to hand over the perpetrator to the judicial systems of Islamic countries," Khamenei said in a statement carried by state media.

Iran, which has delayed the posting of a new ambassador to Sweden, also said it was not accepting a new Swedish envoy.



Russian President Vladimir Putin and Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko meet people outside the Naval Cathedral of St. Nicholas in Kronstadt near Saint Petersburg, Russia.

Cambodia's ruling party claims landslide win in one-sided election

Monitoring Desk
PHNOM PENH: The party of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen declared a landslide victory in a general election on Sunday, a vote that critics widely dismissed as a sham aimed at cementing the party's rule before an expected transfer of power to his eldest son.

The contest was effectively a one-horse race, with Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP), a political behemoth with a vast war chest, facing no viable opponent after a ruthless, years-long crackdown on its rivals.

Polls closed with a turnout of 84% according to the election committee, with 8.1 million people voting in a much-criticised contest between CPP and 17 mostly obscure parties, none of which won seats in the last election in 2018.

The only opponent with any real clout was disqualified from running.

"We've won in a landslide... but we can't calculate the number of seats yet," said CPP spokesperson Sok Eysan.

Self-styled strongman Hun Sen, who has ruled Cambodia for 38 years, had

brushed off all Western concern about the election's credibility, determined to prevent any obstacle in his carefully calibrated transition to his anointed successor and eldest son, Hun Manet.

No timeframe had been given for the handover until Thursday, when Hun Sen signalled his "could be" prime minister next month, depending on "whether Hun Manet will be able to do it or not". He needed to win a National Assembly seat to become prime minister, which was likely.

Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teen lynched in Mississippi

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teenager from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and killed in 1955 after he was accused of whistling at a white woman in Mississippi, and his mother, a White House official said Saturday.

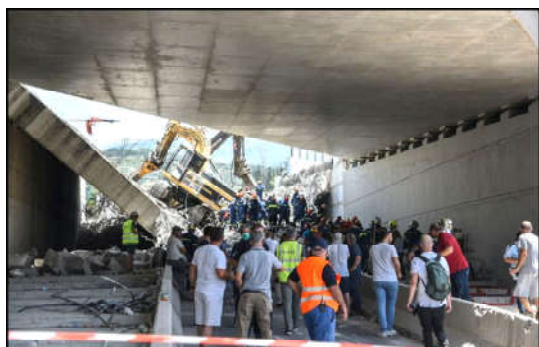
Biden will sign a proclamation on Tuesday to create the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument across three sites in Illinois and Mississippi, according to the official. The individual spoke on condition of anonymity because the White House had not formally

announced the president's plans.

Tuesday is the anniversary of Emmett Till's birth in 1941.

The monument will protect places that are central to the story of Till's life and death at age 14, the acquittal of his white killers and his mother's activism. Till's mother's insistence on an open casket to show the world how her son had been brutalized and Jet's magazine's decision to publish photos of his mutilated body helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement.

Biden's decision also comes at a fraught time in the United States over matters concerning race.



People are seen at the site of a bridge that collapsed in Patras, Greece.

Support for Japanese cabinet slips to 28% - media poll

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Public support of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's cabinet has fallen nearly 20 percentage points to 28% over the past two months, the Mainichi Shimbun reported on Sunday, citing a poll it conducted.

Kishida, who took office in October 2021, saw his approval plummeting in some polls late last year, battered by revelations of ties between the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the Unification Church, but numbers began to edge up with a thaw in ties with

South Korea and a trip to Ukraine in March.

He got a boost in May when he hosted a G7 leaders' summit in the city of Hiroshima but the cabinet's support has plummeted 17 percentage points since then, to just 28%, dropping below 30% for first time since February, the newspaper said.

Technical problems with a national identity card system is one main issue undermining support, the newspaper said.

The number of people who disapproved of the cabinet rose to 65% from 58% last month.

Former Brazilian President Bolsonaro fades from the spotlight

Monitoring Desk
RIO DE JANEIRO: Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is fading from the spotlight, showing the courts' power over the electoral system and the political shortcomings of the increasingly powerless former leader. Brazil's top electoral court ruled last month that Bolsonaro is ineligible to run for any political office until 2030 for abusing his power and casting unfounded

doubts on the country's electronic voting system.

Bolsonaro was once called the "Trump of the Tropics" after emerging as a crusading outsider promising to shake up the system and pursuing an aggressive brand of identity politics including conservative values. Trump, who also cast doubt on the U.S. electoral system and faces legal trouble, remains the front-runner for the Republican Party's nomination.

Kyiv drone strikes munitions depot in Crimea

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: A Ukrainian drone attack on Crimea on Saturday blew up an ammunition depot, sparking evacuations on the Moscow-annexed peninsula and halting rail traffic, just five days after drones damaged Russia's symbolic bridge across the Kerch Strait. In a counteroffensive launched to retake lands lost to Moscow, Kyiv has increasingly made clear despite some Western unease that it aims to also take back the Black Sea peninsula.

War reporter's death prompts Russian outrage over cluster bombs

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: A Russian war reporter was killed and three were wounded in Ukraine on Saturday in what the defence ministry said was a Ukrainian attack using cluster munitions, prompting outrage from Moscow.

In a separate incident, German broadcaster Deutsche Welle said one of its journalists, Yevgeny Shilkov, had been wounded elsewhere in Ukraine in a Russian attack with cluster

munitions that killed a Ukrainian soldier. It said his life was not in danger.

Cluster bombs are in the spotlight after Ukraine received supplies of them from the United States this month.

Many countries ban them because they rain shrapnel over a wide area and can pose a risk to civilians. Some bomblets typically fail to explode immediately, but can blow up years later.

Yemeni police say they've arrested 2 suspects in the killing of a senior World Food Program official

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Yemeni police on Saturday arrested two suspects in the killing of a senior World Food Program official the previous day, authorities said. Ten others were also detained for their alleged involvement in the killing of Moayad Hameidi, who had recently arrived in the country to take the post of the head of the World Food Program.



People gather outside Town Hall to protest the alleged sexual assault of two tribal women in the eastern state of Manipur, in Bengaluru, India.

President, PM felicitate Hamza Khan ends Pakistan's wait for World Junior Squash title after 37 years

MELBOURNE (INP): In a triumphant display of skill and determination, Pakistan's squash sensation, Hamza Khan was first Pakistani finalist since Aamir

achieving the feat precisely 37 years ago in 1986. Hamza Khan was first Pakistani finalist since Aamir



Hamza Khan, etched his name in history on Sunday as he staged a remarkable comeback to seize victory in the World Junior Championship held in Melbourne.

Atlas Khan in 2008. Only five Pakistanis have reached World Championship final, Sohail Qaiser (1982), Jansher Khan (1986), Yasir Butt (2004), Aamir Atlas (2008) and Hamza Khan (2023).

The nation's long-awaited return to the world squash podium was sealed when the young prodigy defeated Egypt's formidable Mohamed Zakaria in a gripping final.

The gripping final clash between Hamza and Zakaria commenced with a flurry of action, as both players fiercely contested two back-to-back games that culminated in intense tiebreakers. Nonetheless, Hamza showcased his

mettle and seized control, convincingly claiming the subsequent two games, securing a splendid 3-1 victory.

During the second game, Zakaria displayed remarkable prowess, taking the lead in a thrilling 26-minute battle that culminated with a score of 12-10. Hamza faced a daunting 8-10 deficit but demonstrated unwavering determination, thwarting Zakaria's game point attempts twice before staging a stunning comeback, eventually leveling the match with a triumphant 14-12 win.

The dynamics shifted dramatically in the following two games, with Hamza exhibiting dominant form. In a swift 6-minute showdown, he cruised to an 11-3 triumph in the third game, leaving little room for resistance. Maintaining his unwavering momentum, Hamza eventually clinched the fourth game with a commendable 11-6 score, sealing his momentous victory.



KARACHI: Mayor of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House

Karachi mayor calls on Governor, discuss civic issues

KARACHI (APP): Mayor of Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab called on the Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House here on Sunday.

They discussed steps of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation in detail, ongoing federally-funded development projects, and other issues of mutual interest.

The Governor said that the development of the

city was the development of the country, adding that the restoration of Karachi's infrastructure was need of the hour. Kamran Tessori directed the Mayor to ensure cleanliness in the city during the month of Muharram ul Haram. Mayor Murtaza Wahab said that the federally-funded projects played significant role in the development of the city, adding carpeting work was underway for the restoration of city's infrastructure.

PDM-led govt saves country from default: Karim Kundi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Faisal Karim Kundi Sunday said that the PDM-led government had saved the country from default after a successful agreement with IMF besides taking other bold decisions. The lower strata of the society was looking towards PPP leadership as they have all the abilities to take the country out of existing challenges, he said while talking to a Private news channel. The PPP is the only voice for the poor and always worked for students, youth, women, labourers and small growers, he added.

EASA clears PIA remote audit

KARACHI (Online): European Union Safety Agency (EASA) has cleared Pakistan International Airline (PIA) audit which is major development to restore airline's flight to Europe.

EASA made PIA audit few months ago.

EASA will visit Pakistan for physical audit of Pakistan's CAA.

After successful finale audit PIA flights to Europe will be restored.

Keep clear that PIA flights in Europe was banned in June 2022 after disclosure of fake degrees of pilots in airline. PIA income will increase in billions after restoration flights in Europe.

Minister Communications says PDM govt starts dissemination of fruits of pro-people policies

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications and Postal Services Maulana Asad Mehmood said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) government had not only saved country from default but also started dissemination of fruits of its pro-people policies.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway M-3 via Satiana here on Sunday, he said that PDM had taken responsibility of running coalition government when the country was facing very crucial time as the previous rulers had badly ruined its economy.

He said that PDM government under dynamic

leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif took bold steps in the greater national interest and saved the country from default. He added that Pakistan was making tremendous progress in 2018 when Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chief Imran Khan was installed in the country under a calculated move. The ill-conceived policies of Imran Khan's government not only stopped the pace of national development but it also made life an ordinary person very miserable. The installed government used all national resources to promote culture of hate and tried to divide the nation but the people were cognizant and well aware of the nefarious designs of Imran Khan and his party.

People asked to eliminate PTI with vote power in up-coming polls: Rana San

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah Khan said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was cancer for national politics and the people should eliminate it with their vote power during upcoming elections.

Addressing the groundbreaking ceremony of dualization of a road from Faisalabad Bypass to Motorway M-3 via Satiana here on Sunday, he said that Pakistan was making progress by leaps and bounds in 2018 when PTI Chief Imran Khan was clamped on the nation.

Imran Khan promoted the culture of hate and hatred only during his tenure. "Although we have saved Pakistan from nefarious designs of PTI Chief, yet public cooperation is im-

perative to completely weed out his hate politics" he added.

The minister said that Pakistan was passing through a crucial stage as multifaceted crises checked its development pace. These crises were the outcome of ill-conceived policies of previous government, he said, adding that Imran Khan firstly made an agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF) and then violated it due to which the entire Pakistani nation had to experience unprecedented price spiral.

He said that Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) had taken the government during very tough situation. However, with the help of Allah Almighty, it succeeded in saving the country from default.

Commissioner reviews dewatering process in different areas of Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH (APP): The availability of generators and fuel shall be ensured round the clock for the dewatering of rainwater accumulated in City and low-lying areas, these instructions were issued to the Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Shaikh by Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch during the visit to different areas of Nawabshah City including Sakrand Road, Mohni Bazaar, Liaquat Market, Hospital Road and others to inspect dewatering progress.

During the visit, the Commissioner expedited the disposal work. Officials of the Public Health Department were instructed to keep the disposal machinery in running condition and all pumping stations in working order to drain out rainwater at the earliest.

The Municipal Commissioner in his briefing informed that the holidays of staff are cancelled in the wake of the arrival of monsoon and ordered them to remain in the field for dewatering on an emergency basis.

Deputy Mayor Mubashir Arain in his briefing informed that all possible steps are being taken for dewatering in different city areas followed by the heavy rain of the previous night.

Later, the Commissioner chaired a meeting at his office that all concerned officials shall remain on duty in the wake of forecasts by the weather department for more heavy rains in order to cope up with any emergency situation.

Commissioner stressed on availability of disposal machinery and generators in running condition for immediate removal of rainwater. The meeting was also attended by Deputy Mayor Mubashir Arain, Municipal Commissioner Abdul Razzaq Shaikh, XEN Public Health Department Muzaffar Zardari, Municipal Engineer Yaseen Bhangar and other related officials.



HYDERABAD: Vehicles passing through accumulated water after heavy rain in the city.

Mehran Uni society's ex-management found guilty of irregularities: Registrar

KARACHI (APP): Registrar Cooperative Department Muhammad Hussain Baloch has said that after due process and thorough inquiries, ex-management of Mehran University Employees Cooperative Housing Society (Ltd) Jamshoro was found guilty of irregularities, misuse of power and embezzlement of society funds.

He said that the former management was not only trying to hide facts through press conferences and protests but also managing to escape from accountability process, according to a communiqué here on Sunday.

Hussain Baloch said that it was on the record that the former management of the varsity's society was given ample opportunity to ensure

corrective measures including membership rights to residents, transparent execution of development works to facilitate allottees but they failed miserably to perform their functions as per true spirit of Cooperative Act/Rules 2020. After supersession notification issued by the Secretary of Cooperative Department Sindh and in compliance of it, a team of Cooperative department reached to take the charge of the said society office.

Abdul Qayum Mallah Ex-Honorary secretary and Muhammad Bux Rajpar ex-Chairman with mala fide intentions not only threatened the officers/officials of the Cooperative department but also with the help of miscreants and unidentified people created law and order situation.

Traders can play pivotal role in economic growth: Kakar

Independent Report

KARACHI: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there is a pivotal role of traders and industrialists in the country's economic growth, so they should fully benefit from the profitable opportunities of trade and investment available in the province.

The Governor was addressing the ceremony of Export Award winner organized by the Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) Karachi on Saturday night.

Also present on the occasion were the Governor of Sindh, Kamran Tessori, Governor of KP, Ghulam Ali, President

FCCI, Irfan Sheikh, former President FCCI, Mian Anjum Nisar, senior vice President, Suleman Chawla, besides a large number of personalities associated with the commerce and industry from all over the country. The Governor Balochistan on the occasion congratulated the export award winners on their remarkable achievement and maintained that there's no denying the fact that the business community has been rendering remarkable services for the country.

He said that those associated with the commerce and industry are considered to be ambassadors of the country, and they can play important role in its economic development.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jeay Sindh Mahaz Centre hold a protest against go Afghani at outside press club.

PML-N, PPP top brass likely to discuss caretaker set-up

Monitoring Desk

DUBAI: Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz arrived in Dubai as Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and PML-N gear up for another huddle in the UAE, The News reported Sunday.

PPP Co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari arrived Friday evening at Dubai's Al-Maktoum airport in a private jet from Karachi.

It is likely that the PML-N and PPP leaderships will consult on who the caretaker prime minister will be once the government dissolves the

National Assembly at the start of August.

Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman will also be consulted for the future political set-up. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl has expressed displeasure over the political meetings held in Dubai last month, saying it was not taken into confidence.

Political observers expect that PML-N supreme Nawaz will meet Maulana Fazl to clear the latter's concerns.

JUI-F leaders in Karachi have confirmed to The News that Maulana Fazl will be visiting Dubai next week and will travel to London after his stay in Dubai.

Another Karachi youth drowns at Hawkesbay beach

KARACHI (INP): Another teenage boy drowned while swimming at Karachi's Hawkesbay beach on Sunday, rescue officials said.

According to rescue officials, a group of youth arrived at Karachi's Hawkesbay beach for a picnic. One youth in the group was swept away by the waves from the beach.

Divers of Edhi Foundation conducted a rescue operation and recovered the body of a youth.

Incidents of drowning were repeatedly reported at Karachi beaches owing to poor safety measures. Among several other factors, what makes Karachi's beaches so dangerous is said to be their undeveloped topography.

Hyderabad receives monsoon showers

HYDERABAD (APP): Hyderabad received heavy showers on Sunday, entailing a blackout in the city due to the power outage. The Pakistan Meteorological Department recorded up to 15 millimeter rainfall till morning.

The heavy downpour started before 2 am and lasted for 20 minutes followed by low downpour and drizzle, sporadically. The power outage hit the city immediately after the rain and it took several hours before the electric supply restored completed.

The rain resulted in flood-like situation in low-lying areas in Hyderabad but the weather remained pleasant throughout the day.

Rescue, relief operation underway in rain-affected areas of Swat, Dir, Chitral

SWAT (APP): Rescue and relief operations are continuing by the security forces after the communication system was affected in Swat Dir and Chitral due to heavy rains.

The communication system in the nearby areas in Dir turned faulty after the water level in the Panjkora River rose due to heavy rains. Shringal-Kumrat road in tehsil Kalkot was badly affected due to landslides, whereas an under-construction

bridge in Shamsi Khan area was damaged.

The security forces are mobilized with heavy machinery to maintain traffic in the area after damage to affected roads and bridges. A key bridge between Chitral and Bonny areas was washed away due to heavy rains. The security forces, through an immediate rescue operation, ensured traffic by constructing an alternate route.

Similarly, security forces are also carrying out rescue operations in Swat and Shangla, and communication systems and damaged roads are being restored in the affected areas.

Besides, the security forces are also actively providing food and drinking water to the people in the rain-hit areas of Swat, Dir, and Chitral. The security forces will continue to play the role of vanguard to protect and serve the people of Pakistan.

Hussain Baloch says Ex-management of Mehran University ECHS found guilty of embezzlement of funds

Independent Report KARACHI: Registrar Cooperative Department Muhammad Hussain Baloch has said that after due process and thorough inquiries, ex-management of Mehran University Employees Cooperative Housing Society (Ltd) Jamshoro, was found guilty of irregularities, misuse of power and embezzlement of society funds. In a statement, issued here on Sunday, he added that through press conferences and protests, they were not only trying to hide facts but they were also managing to escape from accountability process.

Hussain Baloch added that it was on the record that Ex-Management of Mehran University Employees Cooperative Housing Society Ltd Jamshoro was given ample

Huge quantity of drugs recovered

Independent Report

PISHIN: Assistant Commissioner Pishin Habib Ahmed Bangulzai, while holding an important press conference at Levies headquarters, said that on the special instructions of Commissioner Quetta Division Sohail ur Rehman Baloch and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Yasir Bazai, Levies force and Law enforcement agencies conducted a joint operation and raided three drug manufacturing factories in Nasuzai and Haiderzai areas of Yarro and recovered a large quantity of narcotic drugs, ice drug, crystal meth and Omani, and were destroyed on the spot, while one accused, Muhammad Ishaq, son of Yar Muhammad, was arrested.

Assistant Commissioner Habib Ahmad Bangulzai said that the value of recovered and lost narcotic drug "Omani" is three crores, ice drug is thirty seven and a half lakhs, and the value of ice making chemical is 10.5 million.

Naveed Kolachi active after rain in District East

Independent Report

KARACHI: After the rains in different areas of District East, Transition Officer Naveed Khan Kolachi visited different areas and ensured the execution of drainage works under his supervision. Transition Officer Naveed Khan Kolachi along with Focal Person Tauqeer Abbas and In-charge Rao Shamsad visited various areas including Nipa, Safoora, Gurumandir and reviewed the condition in the areas.



During inspection of drainage work at Nipa, Transition Officer, Naveed Khan Kolachi instructed the officers who are present there that in any type of rain staff should be deployed for drainage work. Dewatering pumps have been installed at important places which can be used as per the need, so also staff should be deployed to use them where dewatering has been installed so that the staff can play their role by remaining active to carry out immediate tasks if needed.

We are in touch with elected representatives of district east and by their advises arrangements regarding Rain and Muharram ul Haram has been made.