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

Green Pakistan Initiative to usher in agri revolution, create four mln jobs, says PM; Army assures govt of all-out support for economic stability; Pakistani nation has potential to rise to the top; No power on the earth can stop Pakistan from developing, says Army Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday said that the Green Pakistan Initiative would eventually bring about the second agriculture revolution, in addition to the creation of four million jobs in the country.

Addressing a seminar on agriculture and food security, he said agriculture was the backbone of the country and the farmers worked hard to provide

food to millions of people and they would be remembered in the history as builders of Pakistan.

He said the farmers had the due right to avail incentives for the agriculture sector and it was the responsibility of the government to provide them all possible assistance for overall development and progress. "Farmers work hard but it is common knowledge that they are facing lack of re-

sources," he added.

The prime minister said growth in the agriculture sector would definitely bring Pakistan at par with developed countries.

He said hard work was imperative to ensure progress of Pakistan, adding the green revolution in 1960s was due to the introduction of new varieties of seed, building of dams and canals and modern agriculture practices in the coun-

try.

He said farmers should get more profits than the cost of production of their crops including wheat. The government did increase the support price of wheat which led to record produce of the commodity, he added.

He was hopeful that due to the incentives given by the government, cotton produce would also enhance.

He said it was the re-

sponsibility of the government to provide standard seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the farmers and equip them with the latest technology.

Shehbaz Sharif appreciated the new agriculture initiative for giving real-time information about any pest attacks.

He expressed concern over the adulterated drugs

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates Green Pakistan Initiative, COAS General Syed Asim Munir hands over the inaugural scroll to the Prime Minister.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Abdul Qaddus Bizenjo addressing meeting of Secretaries of provincial departments

JUI-F Amir Maulana Fazl calls on PM to discuss political situation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Amir of Jamiat-e-Ulema Islam (JUI-F) Maulana Fazlur Rehman on Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif to hold consultations over the current political situation of the country.

During the meeting, Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood was also present, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Both leaders of JUI-F appreciated the firm reaction and steps of the government and prime minister with regard to the highly condemnable act of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden.

Maulana Fazlur Rehman termed the incident in Sweden as highly regret-

ful and lauded the prime minister and the government of Pakistan for a narrative in this regard.

He also lauded the efforts of the coalition government under the leadership of the prime minister to steer the country out of the economic difficulties and put it on the path of prosperity. The prime minister also appreciated the role of the coalition partners in the government and said that without their cooperation, taking the country out of its economic woes and reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), were not possible.

He praised JUI-F for standing with the government in taking the difficult decisions.



ISLAMABAD: President JUI-F Maulana Fazlur Rehman call on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

BRC Zhob, Loralai students clinch top three positions in BBISE annual exam result

Moezuddin of BRC Zhob stand first while BRC Loralai's Muhammad Qasim and Hafizullah secure second and third positions respectively

Independent Report

QUETTA: The student of Balochistan Residential College (BRC) Zhob, Moezuddin clinched first position in the annual examination of secondary school (Matric) of Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Quetta securing the highest 1046 marks.

The BRC Loralai students Muhammad Qasim and Hafizullah secured second and third positions by obtaining 1037 and 1036 marks respectively.

The annual SSC result was announced by the BBISE Additional Secretary, Shamsullah Khan while addressing a press conference at the Board office on Monday.

Shamsullah Khan

mentioned that in all 140,098 candidates had appeared in the annual SSC examination, out of whom, 121,271 could pass the examination.

The overall percentage of success in the annual examination remained as 86.5 percent, he announced.

The BBISE Quetta official said that a lot of expectations of the nation are with the youth and as such they should work hard further to brighten the name of country and nation.

Shamsullah Khan said that the reason behind success of students of the BRC every time is improvement in the educational standards.

He on the occasion claimed that excellent arrangements had been made to prevent cheating in the annual examinations.

President administers oath to Dr Syed Anwar as Alim Judge of FSC

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

The appointment has been made for a period of three years.

The president administered the oath in line with clause (2) of the Article 203C of the Constitution.

KKH closed for traffic near Hassanabad due to landslide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Karakoram Highway is closed for traffic near Hassanabad due to landslides.

A Spokesman of the National Highway Authority (NHA) said on Monday that necessary machinery has been delivered, and the road is being opened.

He said that N-35 is closed for all types of traffic near Nasirabad due to landslides. He asked the citizens traveling on the highway to start their journey after getting the necessary information.

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday dared Imran Niazi to face courts for his crimes and cases of corruption and plunder, and severely criticized him for carrying out revenge against Nawaz Sharif, his party and for fabricating false cases against political opponents.

In a tweet tagging the account of Imran Niazi, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Allah for making his party including his Quaid Muhammad Nawaz Sharif victorious against lies of opponent political group blinded by political revenge, against baseless cases and in every test of public service.

Not only in Pakistan but in the decisions of National Crime Agency and courts of Britain there was

satisfactory and sufficient response to every question of merchants of lies, he added.

The PM said the latest example was the verdict in the plot allotment reference in the Accountability Court Lahore in which it was clearly stated that Nawaz Sharif was made target of political victimization and there was no case but it was a fabrication. The transgressors who called this falsehood a reference should seek forgiveness from Allah and the people, he said, adding, "But only those seek forgiveness who have fear of Allah in their hearts and have the capacity to ask for clemency. Those who justify their sins with more lies become an example for others. Their hearts are locked by Allah."



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

CJ BHC directs judges of subordinate court to dispose of pending cases immediately

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Justice Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Naeem Akhtar Afghan has directed the judges of subordinate courts to dispose of the pending cases immediately.

The Chief Justice also directed the judges of subordinate court to follow the time and dress court while performing duty.

These directives were issued by the Chief Justice High Court during his surprise visit to the district court (zila katechery) here on Monday.

Also accompanied with him was the Member Chief Minister Inspection Team, Nazir Ahmed Khajak.

The Chief Justice on the occasion directed to avoid unnecessary pendency of the cases in the subordinate courts.

Establishment of University of Technology in Balochistan need of hour, says Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has underlined the need to establish University of Technology like other universities in the province.

He said that if we didn't made progress in the info-technology and bio-tech, then we would remain backward in the comity of developed nations and would not compete with them anyway.

The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor, University of Loralai, Ehsanullah Khan Kakar and Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Ghilzai here at the Governor House on Monday.

The Governor maintained that we have to shift our existing system at the modern science and technology keeping in view the requirements of the artificial intelligence.

He stressed that at the moment, we also direly need modern skills along with modern education for the role of Balochistan Public Sector Universities and Technical institutions is very important.

The Governor on the occasion also called for taking revolutionary measures to bring the University of Loralai at par other good universities of the country.



QUETTA: Different delegations meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

World Population Day being observed today: Bizenjo calls for controlling increasing population to achieve SDGs

Chief Minister says controlling population becomes unavoidable; exhorts masses to adopt reproductive health means so they may play important role in development of country and province

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qaddus Bizenjo has expressed concern over the ever-increasing population of the country and stressed the need to control it so as to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) remaining in its resources and we may not suffer from the issue of food security.

The Chief Minister stated so in a message issued here marking the World Population Day being observed today (Tuesday) in the country as elsewhere in the world.

The Chief Minister said that today the whole

world is celebrating the Population Day, which is aimed at highlighting the issues regarding increasing population and balancing the available resources and their distribution for the rights.

He said that the population of Pakistan is increasing rapidly. He recalled that the population of the country was around 30 million in 1974, which has increased to 250 million now. He said that we can make assessment that how we are facing economic and social problems due to increase of 220 million people since then while Pakistan has become the fifth most popu-

lous country of the world. The Chief Minister said that we have to control the increasing population in order to achieve the goals of sustainable development remaining in our own resources.

He regretfully pointed out that children are suffering from numerous diseases since their births due to the increasing population as a result we are confronting the issue of standard growth.

He said that the control of population is taken in the country just normal considering it mere family

Continued on page 2

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Monday said the May 9 incidents had only benefited the "enemy", but it was the nation who ultimately emerged victorious with the foiling of conspiracy against Pakistan.

Ironically, she said, the "foreign agent", who masterminded the May 9 tragedy made a tweet the other day asking who benefited from the May 9 tragedy.

"Only the enemies of the country benefited from the acts of vandalism and arson, but the people of Pakistan are the ultimate winners as the conspiracy against the country's integrity has been foiled," she said while addressing a press conference.

The minister was responding to a question posed by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on his Twitter handle asking who was benefited from the May 9 incidents of vandalising public

and private properties, desecrating memorials of martyrs, and burning of ambulances, schools and mosques by the PTI workers.

Referring to the recent statement of Shahzad Akbar regarding Nawaz Sharif, she said those who had previously hurled accusations of thievery at others at the behest of PTI chief, were now testifying the innocence and integrity

Continued on page 2



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

Govt decides to appoint trade officer in India

ISLAMABAD (INP): The federal government has decided to appoint a trade officer in India despite a halt to commercial traffic between the two countries since New Delhi altered the status of Occupied Kashmir in 2019.

According to media reports, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has ordered initiating the process for appointing a new trade officer in India despite suspension of trading between the two neighbours. The prime minister also abolished the grade-20 post of trade and investment minister in India. The important decision has been taken to appoint a trade and investment consular grade-19 post. The important decision has been made just a month before the constitutional term of the government end to appoint the officer at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

Court acquits Suleman, others in money-laundering case

LAHORE (APP): A special court (central) on Monday acquitted Suleman Shehbaz and others in a Rs 16 billion money-laundering case, registered by the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA).

Special Court Judge Bakht Fakhri Behzad announced the verdict while allowing acquittal applications of Suleman Shehbaz and others.

Earlier, the FIA submitted replies to 27 questions, asked by the court, during the proceedings.

To a court query, the FIA prosecutor submitted that a joint investigation team, headed by Dr Rizwan, had conducted an inquiry into the money-laundering charges.

The court asked whether the FIA recorded statements of any witnesses during the probe. The investigation officer kept silence and did not reply.

what action had been taken against those who kept changing their stance during the inquiry and investigation. The investigation officer responded that no action had been taken against them. The court asked whether there was any evidence in seven volumes of the FIA, submitted in the court earlier, and on what basis or of evidence, a challan was submitted in the court. To a question about former FIA DG Sanaullah Abbasi's absence from the court, the FIA prosecutor replied that a letter was written to him, but he did not appear.

Suleman's counsel submitted that former FIA DG Bashir Memon had admitted that he also faced pressure for making the case.

The FIA prosecutor submitted that there was no direct evidence of money laundering against Suleman Shehbaz.

The court questioned

Mushahid lauds China Media Group for promotion of Pak-China friendship

BEIJING (APP): Chairman, Senate's Defense Committee, Mushahid Hussain Syed has paid rich tributes to the China Media Group's Urdu service for playing an important role in the promotion and development of China-Pakistan friendship.

posed by the President of China Xi Jinping, Belt and Road Initiative, Global Security Initiative, and the Global Civilization Initiative, he said that these initiatives will help mankind in the present era and provide sustainable solutions.

great philosopher poet Allama Iqbal had predicted the leadership role of China in his poems a hundred years ago and today it is proving to be true under the leadership of President Xi Jinping.

peace in the world and the Chinese diplomacy under the leadership of President Xi Jinping brought great news to the world at the beginning of the current year.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with COAS General Syed Asim Munir, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb and Advisor to PM Ahad Khan Cheema receiving a briefing during their visit of exhibition at Green Pakistan Initiative inaugural ceremony.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a meeting with Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf along with political leadership from Balochistan at Parliament House.

May 9 incidents benefit Pakistan's...

Continued from page 1 of Nawaz Sharif. She pointed out that a group of individuals, operating from abroad, was actively orchestrating a malicious campaign against the state institutions through social media platforms.

tional institutions was being spearheaded by the PTI chairman who made systematic efforts to discredit and destabilize the state institutions through the misuse of social media platforms.

The minister declared that individuals who were engaged in dangerous games under the guise of freedom of speech had been effectively tracked and traced, and made it unequivocally clear that the PTI chief would be responsible if any harm or damage was caused by such actions.

Non-controversial care taker set up to help conduct fair elections: Asif Kirmani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Muslim League-N Senator Asif Kirmani on Sunday said that a non-controversial care taker set up would help conduct transparent elections in Pakistan.

ment in August. The general elections would be held in October under the supervision of Care taker government, he said.

Bizenjo calls for controlling...

Continued from page 1 planning while it actually includes reduction in the maternal and infant mortality ratio, prevention of AIDS, treatment of hepatitis, ending unemployment and provision of medical facilities.

health system. He urged the masses to adopt the reproductive health means so that they may play important role in development of the country and province.

نوش طلبی کوشین... Advertisement for a health product with contact information and a QR code.

PM, COAS vow to put country on road to...

Continued from page 1 given to the farmers and warned of strict action against the culprits. He lauded the vision of Army Chief Syed Asim Munir for development of agriculture sector in the country.

porting food products worth \$ 40 billion. He was of the view that Pakistan had to compete with the world and increase its exports and added the economy would get revived in the next two years.

to alleviate poverty. The seminar was attended by federal ministers, chief ministers of Punjab and Sindh province, chief secretaries of provincial governments, agricultural experts and farmers from all the provinces.

Population Council marked World Population Day Women empowerment is stepping stone in achieving elusive goal of sustainable population growth in Pak

By Hina Naseem ISLAMABAD: July 11th commemorates World Population Day, an occasion that draws attention to the urgency and significance of population-related matters.

to remove all forms of discrimination against girls, in terms of diet, education and healthcare. Girls should be treated as equal as boys and must be educated to plan their families according to their resources".

empowerment in Pakistan, Fauzia Yazdani, Social & Public Policy Advisor (Gender and Women Empowerment) said "One of the most important ways to enhance women's rights is to increase their access



urged media to play its part in ensuring enrollment of all out of school girls and incentivization of their education till secondary level, as 37% girls remain out of school in the country. Media can also hold governments responsible to ensure service delivery of family planning services besides raising awareness to enhance male engagement in family planning.

CORRIGENDUM... Notice regarding bid submission and opening dates for PRQ No. 47/10-7-2023.

TENDER NOTICE... Only electronic bid will be submitted. Includes details for construction and maintenance work with a table of items.

PAKISTAN PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT NOTICE INVITING TENDER... Tenders are hereby invited in sealed covers from the approved Government Contractors who have the relevant field of specialization in PEC and having valid enlistment for the year 2023-24.

Table with 5 columns: S No., Name of Work, Estimated Cost, Earnest Money in shape of CDR, Tender Fee Shape of Pay Order. Lists 10 construction projects.

48th INSC: Chairman PAEC inaugurates 'scientific spring'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 48th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs was inaugurated at National Center for Physics (NCP) Quaid-e-Azam University on Monday. The INSC was inaugurated by the Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), Raja Ali Raza Anwar. In the 48th International Nathiagali Summer College, a distinguished group of 30 experts from developed

countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, Canada, France, Germany, Holland, Australia, Spain, Türkiye, Romania, and Chile has been invited to deliver lectures on crucial topics throughout the two-week event. Out of a pool of over 1,200 applicants, approximately 250 researchers from universities and research organizations across Pakistan have been carefully selected to participate in the

College. This diverse gathering promises to facilitate meaningful exchanges and foster valuable connections among the participants, enriching the scientific community in Pakistan. The scientific activities of the International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) are designed to encompass a wide range of topics at the forefront of knowledge in Physics and related disciplines. Each year, the College focuses on three to five



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP).



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) Raja Ali Raza Anwar addressing during inaugural ceremony of 48th International Nathiagali Summer College (INSC) on Physics and Contemporary Needs at National Center for Physics (NCP) Quaid-e-Azam University.

Islamabad police implement new measures to ensure investigation adherence

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police have appointed law officers to oversee investigation standards and bolster transparency and uphold the rule of law. During a meeting presided over by the Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, law officers were entrusted with the meticulous task of thoroughly reviewing case files to ensure adherence to investigation standards and the pursuit of justice based on merit. The meeting also

focused on reviewing ongoing cases and assessing the performance of investigation officers. These appointments signify the first-ever collaboration between law officers and police officers in Pakistan, highlighting a concerted effort to promote transparency and justice in law enforcement.

The meeting, which witnessed the presence of influential figures including SSP Operations Malik Jamil Zafar, AIG Operations Saud Khan, all District Police Officers (DPOs), Sub-District Police Officers (SDPOs),

law officers, and unit in-charges, emphasized the imperative of cooperation between law officers and investigation officers in legal matters.

Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, ICCPPO, underscored the paramount significance of conducting investigations and judicial proceedings in strict adherence to the law. In a bid to rectify any previous gaps in investigations, the ICCPPO issued a directive to all DPOs and investigating officers, urging them to revisit incomplete cases promptly and impartially.

Search and combing operation conducted for enhanced security

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police, in collaboration with the Counter Terrorism Department (CTD), carried out a comprehensive search and combing operation within the jurisdiction of Secretariat police stations. This operation comes as a result of special directives from Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPPO), to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of Islamabad. The operation involved thorough checks of houses, suspects, vehicles, and motorcycles, emphasizing the commitment to heighten security measures in the federal capital. In response

to the directives issued by ICCPO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, search and combing operations have been initiated in various areas of Islamabad. The primary objective is to enhance the safety and security of the city's residents.

The recent operation took place in different areas within the jurisdiction of Secretariat police stations, conducted jointly by teams from the CTD and FC. During the operation, a total of 125 houses, 50 suspects, five vehicles, and 20 motorcycles were thoroughly checked. ICCPO Islamabad emphasized that the search and combing operations aim to strengthen security measures in the federal capital.

Young artists call on Chairman Gandhara Task Force

ISLAMABAD (APP): A group of young artists working on Gandhara called on Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chairman PM's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism here Monday at Sir Syed Memorial Museum to share their work on Gandhara and display the works during the 2-day Gandhara Symposium.

Dr. Ramesh Kumar selected their work on Gandhara featuring paintings, sculptures in diverse mediums and ideas exploring potential and opportunities for Gandhara tourism in Pakistan. He

said these artists are our assets and we must create opportunities for them to polish their talent and attract young generation to the field of visual art.

The Chairman PM Task Force said the works contributed by these budding and established artists will be displayed during the two-day Gandhara Symposium and after this grand event, we will hold a national level Gandhara Art Competition to involve art students and artists for promotion of Gandhara tourism at home and abroad through such competitions.

Manzoor appointed IFA Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor has been appointed as Chairman of the Islamabad Futsal Association (IFA).

The annual meeting of Islamabad Futsal Association was held here under the chairmanship of Rana Tanveer Ahmed, and was participated by IFA Chairman Malik Mehrban Ali, Secretary General Adnan Malik and Chairman of Rawalpindi Futsal Association Shaukat Ali Khan.

In the meeting, Malik Mehrban Ali suggested the name of Chaudhry Nadeem Manzoor Bega as Chairman IFA to which all members agreed. Nadeem Manzoor was also the President of Bega Welfare Foundation.

Over Rs 58b disbursed under Benazir Kafaalat so far

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has so far disbursed over Rs. 58 billion among more than 6.5 million beneficiary women across the country under the Benazir Kafaalat initiative.

According to an official source, the disbursement of the fourth quarterly tranche of Benazir Kafaalat for the Financial Year-2022-23 is continued successfully through banks' retailers.

Under Benazir Kafaalat, nine million registered beneficiary families are entitled to a quarterly installment of Rs 9,000 per household.

Utah University organizes workshop for department chairs of public universities

ISLAMABAD (APP): The University of Utah organized a 3-day training workshop for department chairs of public universities on strategic planning, as part of the USAID's Higher Education System Strengthening Activity (HESSA).

Hosted by the National University of Sciences & Technology (NUST) Islamabad, the workshop was attended by 30 dept. chairs representing 16 partner universities of HESSA, said press release on Monday. These universities have partnered with USAID's HESSA to strengthen their capacity of developing and delivering market-driven education and research to enhance graduate employability.

Facilitated by Dr. Mike Barber, University of Utah and Dr. Sajjad Ahmad, University of Nevada Las Vegas, the department leadership prepared strategic plans for their respective sections, developed mission and vision statements and core values, and developed goals and performance indicators to measure success of their departments. Building on the earlier batch, this training focused on the

required skills to be a successful leader with a visionary approach to sustainable improvement in faculty and student success. In his opening remarks, Dr. Mike Barber welcomed the faculty from HESSA's 16 partner universities and elaborated the objectives and impact of the project.

Dr Osman Hasan, Pro Rector Academics NUST welcomed all the participants on campus and appreciated USAID for the continuous support to advance higher education in the country and for engaging international experts in all its trainings.

This workshop is complemented by virtual one-on-one sessions and an exposure visit to the University of Utah, U.S. Through this extended training program, HESSA seeks to develop a pool of trainers who will support the capacity building of university administration and facilitate transformation across their respective universities and beyond. HESSA is a USAID-funded program that aims to introduce sustainable higher education reforms and work with Pakistani universities on international best practices in teaching, research,

Anti-social elements involve in social media propaganda to be brought to justice soon : SAPM

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Malik Ahmed Khan Monday said that the whole nation stood with the army chief and that anti-social elements involved in the social media propaganda drive would be brought to justice soon as the investigation of this matter reached its final stages.

"Elements behind the social media propaganda campaign need to be exposed," he said while talking to a Private news

channel. "This negative social media drive was being hatched against national institutions to harm the country and it was pre-planned," he added.

"Anti-state elements are only active to destabilize the country politically and economically," he mentioned.

Replying to a question, he said hate statements through social media platforms and freedom of expression should not be confused.

"There is a dire need to restrict these hate speech platforms," he added.

He said, "His party is not believing in media regulation as free media defines the progress of any nation but such elements are crossing limits and exploiting the situation through their false statements and negative propaganda drives."

"It is a clear violation of fundamental rights of any citizen of the country which will be protected at any cost," he added.

Imran Khan moves IHC for protective bails in six cases

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Tehreek e Insaaf's (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan had filed petitions to Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday seeking protective bails in eight cases registered in various cities of the country.

The IHC's bench would likely to hear the bail cases of former prime minister on Tuesday. The petitioner had prayed the court to grant protective bails so that he could approach the concern courts for the relief.



ISLAMABAD: Families are enjoying at Dino Valley Park on the top of the Margala Hills as due to the summers vacation in schools, children have a lot of time to enjoy well.

PID AJK delegation visits APP, briefed on working of Digital Media Wing

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Press Information Department, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, led by its Director Raja Amjad Hussain Minhas on Monday visited the headquarters of Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) head office here with the objective to upgrade the PID Digital Media Section on modern lines.

After meeting with APP Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa and Executive Director News Hanif Sabir, the delegation took a round of the Digital Media Wing to have a first hand account of the working.

District Information Officer Muzaffarabad Raja Sohail Khan and Programmer Sardar Shamim Anjum Aziz were also present on this occasion.

Executive Director Adnan Akram Bajwa, on the occasion, said as it was an age of social and digital media and that was why the APP was paying full attention to them. A studio had been set up to run the APP Web TV, he added.

Besides print media outlets, he said, electronic media channels had also established their digital media wings, which manifested the importance of the medium.

He said the AJK Information Department was doing a good work in the field.

AJK Director Information Raja Amjad said on the directives of AJK prime minister, the PID was taking steps to make digital and social media wing more active and efficient.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmed addressing during the event for "Ensuring access to Higher Education" as Organized Raabta at Serena Hotel in Federal Capital.

Eco Hike 2023 organized to promote Eco-friendly tourism

ISLAMABAD (APP): With an aim to explore the untouched beauty of Kashmir and promote Eco-friendly tourism, the Bagh Alpine Club, in collaboration with MTBC successfully organized the Eco Hike 2023, with an aim to explore the untouched beauty of Kashmir and promoting Eco-friendly tourism.

The event which was held under the supervision of Alpine Club of Pakistan witnessed the participation of approximately 70 individuals from all four provinces of Pakistan and various districts of Azad Kashmir, said a press release.

The breathtaking Eco Hike took place along a challenging 40-kilometre trail in the Pir Panjal Range of Bagh District. Participants embarked on an exhilarating journey from Ganga Choti to Noor Gala, traversing through picturesque villages and rugged terrain.

Overnight camping amidst the enchanting surroundings of Mastan Dhok added a unique cultural experience to the adventure.

The primary objective of Eco Hike 2023 was to discover the verdant meadows and majestic mountains of Kashmir, which remain largely unexplored, while simultaneously promoting clean tourism and combating environmental pollution. The event aimed to raise awareness about the importance of preserving natural resources and fostering a sustainable tourism industry. To further strengthen the cause of Eco-friendly tourism, Bagh Alpine Club continues to organize such engaging activities that connect individuals with nature and raise environmental consciousness. The event was made possible through the sponsorship of MTBC, Pakistan's leading IT company.

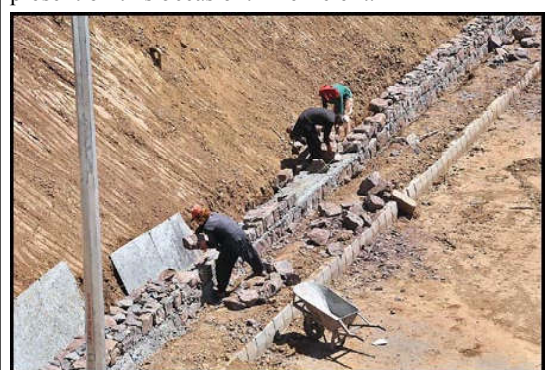
Islamabad Science Camp 2.0 kicks off at AIUO

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 5-day Hands-on Science Camp 2.0 started at the main campus of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIUO) here.

Around 120 children aged 8 to 14 years from Islamabad and neighboring areas are participating in the camp, they will be trained to make five different robotic projects during this training camp.

This camp is being organized in collaboration with Allama Iqbal Open University, Pakistan Science Club, and ECO Science Foundation (ECOSF). The project has been formulated to teach fundamental principles of science to young minds to develop interests regarding science to keep in view the interests of today's generation on the special instruction of Prof. Dr. Nasir Mahmood, Vice Chancellor, AIUO.

The training material of this camp was designed under the supervision of the Dean Faculty of Sciences, Prof. Dr. Irshad Ahmed Arshad, and the Dean Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Tanzila Nabeel. Dr. Muhammad Tanveer Afzal, Dr. Aftab, and Arshad Mahmood Qamar on behalf of Open University, Ghulam Abbas on behalf of ECOSF, and Abdul Rauf are representing the 5-member team of Pakistan Science Club. The camp will continue till July 14 at the main campus of AIUO Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Labourers busy construction work of protection wall along Bhara Kahu Bypass.

IWMB confiscates protected birds illegally sold at H-9 Sunday Bazaar

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB) successfully conducted a raid at illegal sale points of protected birds in the H-9 Sector of the federal capital and confiscated endangered birds of different species.

The IWMB team comprising of Assistant Director Wildlife, Ayesha Shehzad, Aneeb Ahmed, Field Supervisor Zaheer Khan and others during a routine visit to Sunday Bazaar, H-9 Sector and other areas inspected various shops at selling birds and pets in the federal capital. The IWMB spokesperson told APP while briefing on the enforcement efforts of the Board. He said the IWMB raid team carried out the operation across various areas of the federal capital

specifically targeting bird shops. The raid team successfully confiscated Rose-ringed Parakeets, Alexandrine Parakeets, and Black Partridges, which are protected species under wildlife conservation laws, he added.

Furthermore, during the raid conducted by the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board's team, two individuals were apprehended on the spot for their involvement in the illegal trade of protected bird species. A first information report (FIR) has been lodged against the accused, initiating legal proceedings to hold them accountable for their actions. The FIR stated that the two individuals had misbehaved with the raid team and made objectionable remarks.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mohsin Aziz, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on interior presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

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

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

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

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

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

As part of the efforts to streamline healthcare services, digital cards will be

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

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

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

Several key decisions were made during the meeting to enhance the infrastructure and services in the division.

In line with the objective of providing advanced healthcare facilities, it was decided to establish a state-

of-the-art cardiology block in the new building of the District Headquarters Hospital. Additionally, plans were set in motion to transform the old DHQ hospital building into a specialized children's hospital, catering to the unique healthcare needs of young patients.

The meeting also addressed the need for infrastructure improvements within the city. Specifically, a 6.5-kilometer stretch of the dual carriageway GT Road, located within the city, will undergo restoration to ensure smooth and efficient transportation for residents.

The meeting included a comprehensive evaluation of Sahiwal city development project, as well as initiatives related to water recharge and waste management. The meeting emphasized the importance of completing the Sahiwal-Pakpattan Road by September, setting a clear deadline for its timely execution. The project concerning the lining of small channels in Okara was also reviewed during the meeting, reflecting the government's commitment to effective water resource management.



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

Nasir Shah inaugurates project for beautification of Shahrah-e-Faisal

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Local Government Minister Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, on Monday, along with Mayor Karachi Murtaza Wahab inaugurated a project of beautification and improvement of Shahrah-e-Faisal.

A series of development and beautification work would be carried out under an Rs.195.71 million project on the 18 km long major artery from Jinnah International Airport to Hotel Metropole for improving the environment, facilities for pedestrian movement, landscaping and artistic works and designs.

Syed Nasir Hussain Shah while speaking at the occasion said that the project was aimed at the beautification of Shahrah-e-Faisal so that visitors, both international and local, entering Karachi through the major artery have a better look at the metropolis.

The minister said that the Sindh government under the leadership of CM Murad Ali Shah was working day and night to materialise Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's vision of development, welfare and improvement.

He said that all the concerned departments of the Sindh government and city government as well as the cantonments and CAA were on a single page and work with coordination to complete the project and achieve desired objectives.

Nasir Shah said that the PPP Sindh government was carrying out hundreds of development projects across the province and particularly in the provincial capital to ensure better facilities for the people and to resolve their problems. Sindh government had completed record projects despite natural calamities and non-cooperation of the previous PTI federal government, he claimed adding that number of completed projects was higher than any other province of Pakistan.

Nasir Shah said that all the concerned departments and civic agencies exhibited remarkable performance on Eid-ul-Azha and ensured cleanliness and sanitation in Karachi during all the days of Eid.

He appealed media to portray the positive developments taking place besides highlighting the issues

and problems of the people so that a positive image of Karachi could be highlighted across the world.

Responding to a media query, Nasir Shah said that the people of Karachi had given mandate to PPP in local government elections and now all the LG bodies across the province were empowered to carry out development works and resolve the problems of the public at the grass root level. All the civic bodies including KDA, LDA, MDA, and water board were under the supervision of Mayor Karachi to ensure better service delivery to people of the metropolis, he said adding that Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed for empowerment of LG bodies and authority was delegated to elected representatives.

Nasir Shah said that PPP has strengthened its vote bank in Sindh through record development and welfare works and in the next general elections PPP would not only sweep the entire Sindh province but it would also get success in Punjab, Balochistan and Khaibar Pakhtunkhwa.

Sindh govt approves 17.5% increase in pension

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh government has sanctioned an increase of 17.5 percent on net pension with effect from July 01, 2023 until further orders to all civil pensioners of the Sindh government.

The increase in the pension as mentioned at Para-01 will also be admissible to the pensioners, who would retire on or after July 01, 2023, according to a communiqué here on Monday. The term "Net Pension" means "Pension being drawn" minus "Medical Allowance".

The increase will also be admissible to family pension granted under the Pension-cum-Gratuity Scheme 1954 Liberalized Pension Rules 1977 on pension sanctioned under the Central Civil Services (Extra Ordinary Pension) Rules as well as on the Compassionate Allowance under CSR-353.

If the gross pension sanctioned by the Sindh government is shared with

any government in accordance with the rules laid down in Part-IV of Appendix III to the Accounts Code, Volume-1, the amount of the increase in pension will be apportioned between the federal government and the other government concerned on proportionate basis.

The increase in pension sanctioned will not be admissible to Special Additional Pension allowed in lieu of pre-retirement Orderly Allowance.

The benefit of increase in pension sanctioned will also be admissible to those Civil Pensioners of the Sindh government, who are residing abroad (other than those residing in India and Bangladesh), who retired on or after 15.08.1947 and are not entitled to or are not in receipt of pension increase under the British Government's Pension (increase) Acts. The payment will be made at the applicable rate of exchange.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Switzerland to Pakistan Georg Steiner rang the 'bell of hope' at Governor House.

Meeting held to create awareness against dengue in KP

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

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

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

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

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

They pledged to engage local elders, clerics, educational institutes, and the general public, aiming to raise awareness about dengue prevention and the necessary precautions to be taken.

Secretary Health Mehood Aslam Wazir and Dengue Control Programme Coordinator, Dr. Qasim Afridi, expressed their gratitude to the dengue volunteer task team for their dedication and extended their full support from the Health Department. They acknowledged the vital role played by the volunteers in this crucial campaign against dengue and emphasized the significance of a collaborative approach in mitigating the risks associated with the disease.



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

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

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

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

CS GB said the initiative to upgrade these gov-

ernment schools into Smart schools aligns with the government's commitment to modernize the education system and provide students with access to cutting-edge technology and resources. He said by embracing digital tools and interactive learning environments, the Government of Gilgit-Baltistan aims to empower the youth, enhance their educational experiences, and foster a brighter future for the region. "I myself along with Secretary of School Education Department, Secretary IT and the Collector Customs GB, gathered to witness the signing of the Letter of Understanding, symbolizing a strong partnership dedicated to the betterment of education in Gilgit-Baltistan."

Swiss Ambassador calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that there were ample opportunities for Pakistan and Switzerland in various fields to further enhance their mutual cooperation.

This he said while talking to Ambassador of Switzerland Georg Steiner at Governor House here on Monday.

Bilateral relations, the need to further enhance bilateral ties, investment opportunities in Sindh and other matters of mutual interest were discussed in detail on the occasion.

Governor Sindh said that Sindh offers ideal investment opportunities, especially for foreign investors and any investment from Swiss investors in the province would be welcomed. "They would be provided every help and assistance", Governor Sindh said.



LAHORE: A delegation of Pakistan Council for Social Welfare and Human Rights led by its Chairman Muhammad Ijaz Noori in a group photo with Punjab Governor Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman.

Governor inaugurates Sindh I.T Gate

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

While talking to media persons after the inauguration, he said that they were giving importance to Information Technology (I.T.) for the promotion of innovation.

He said that the Governor House had received 1.1 million applications for I.T. course and 0.1 million candidates would be selected through test in the first phase whereas other candidates could also be transferred to other courses.

Kamran Tessori said that a list of roll numbers of the aspiring candidates would be uploaded on social media platforms. Condemning PTI chief Imran Khan, he said that Imran Khan merely wanted the government and he did not care about the people.

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

KP witnesses significant fall in anti-polio drops refusal cases

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

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

The Center further said that in 2016 for the first time the anti-polio campaign received the

strong support of Ulema when several families were reluctant to administer anti-polio drops to their children owing to the negative propaganda against the vaccination.

It said that the Ulema support highly helped in the success of the anti-polio vaccination. It said that even in some cases the refusing parents were now administering anti-polio shots to their children.

Meanwhile, Maulana Raees Khan of Darul Uloom Hayatabad has said that earlier some people were refusing anti-polio drops to their children only due to misperceptions however, he said when we persuaded them, they were now administering anti-polio drops to their children.

Two children die as landslide hits Swat houses

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

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

On receiving the information, Rescue 1122 medical and disaster rescue teams reached the spot and started the search operation.

The rescue team managed to pull out two children but two children died due to injuries and suffocation. The injured have been shifted to the Saidu Sharif Hospital.

The landslide was apparently triggered by recent rains in the area.

6 acres state land retrieved

FAISALABAD (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Chak Jhumra Sultan Zafar has retrieved state land of 6 acres from 'Qabza Mafia' and handed it over to Revenue department for its safety.

According to a spokesman of local administration, the AC Chak Jhumra along with team reached in Chak No.18-GB where the land grabbers had occupied 6 acres of state land. The AC retrieved the land which has an approximate market value of millions of rupees.

The illegal structures of land grabbers were demolished with the help of heavy machinery while further action against land grabbers was under progress, he added.



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

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

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

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

In fourth operation near Godap Town Karachi, 1.7 kg Ice drug and two kg heroin were recovered from a vehicle while an accused resident of Quetta was also netted.

In fifth operation near Shakarpur road Sukkur, two kg charras was recovered from the possession of a drug smuggler, resident of Khairpur. In sixth operation at Bacha Khan International Airport, ANF recovered 101 heroin and Ice-filled capsules from the possession of a Bahrain-bound passenger, going on flight no GF-787.

In seventh operation on Gujranwala Road, 1.8 kg charras was recovered from the possession of a biker, resident of Sheikhpora.

The spokesman informed that in eighth operation conducted at a courier office in Kot Lakhpat Lahore area, 33 grams heroin concealed in gents suits was recovered. The parcel was booked for Greece. In ninth operation conducted at Multan International Airport, a Sharjah-bound passenger, resident of Bannu, going on flight no PA-812 was rounded up on recovery of a charras-filled capsule.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government (L.G) Syed Nasir Hussain Shah addressing the inauguration ceremony of renovation of Sharah-e-Faisal at Karsaz Martyrs Memorial.

Dar chairs Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP)

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Privatization (CCoP) today.

Federal Minister for Power Mr. Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Privatization / Chairman Privatization Commission Mr. Abid Hussain Bhayo, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Chairman RRMCA Ashfaq Yousof Tola, Federal Secretaries and senior officials attended the meeting.

The Privatization Commission submitted a summary regarding privatization of Services International Hotel (SIH) and updated the Committee on its privatization process. The CCoP after detailed discussion allowed

Privatization Commission to proceed towards successful conclusion of SIH transaction with completion of transfer/mutation process in the name of the purchaser.

The Privatization Commission also presented a summary on privatization of House Building Finance Company Ltd (HBFCCL) with one single (pre-qualified) bidder. After detailed deliberations, CCoP decided to allow Privatization Commission to proceed with single source/negotiated transaction for Privatization of HBFCCL with sole pre-qualified investor namely Pakistan Mortgage Refinance Company Ltd (PMRCL).

The Privatization Commission tabled a summary related to Budget Estimates of the Privatization Commission for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to the tune of Rs. 1248.8 million. The CCoP after detailed deliberation

approved the summary.

The Privatization Commission also presented summaries on privatisation of Pakistan Engineering Company (PEC) and privatization of Sindh engineering Limited (SEL) and briefed the meeting on their status.

The CCoP after discussion deferred both the summaries with directions that Secretary Privatization Commission, Secretary Law & Justice and Secretary Industries & Production may hold mutual consultations and come up with future course of action in both cases.

The Privatization Commission also updated the CCoP on the status of privatization process of Roosevelt Hotel. The CCoP after discussion deferred the summary with direction to submit an update on the privatization of Roosevelt Hotel after consultation with Aviation Ministry.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Salman Hussain, Senior Partner, A.F. Ferguson & Co (PWC) called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, today and presented him latest publication titled "Navigating the future of Opportunities and Challenges" on country's banking sector.

Pak has vast investment opportunities in various sectors including IT: Amin

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Syed Amin-ul-Haq emphasized the abundant investment opportunities available in the country across multiple sectors, particularly in Information Technology (IT).

In a statement, he said that the Ministry of Information Technology and Telecommunication (MOITT) is committed to extending comprehensive support and facilities to businesses and investors in various domains, including Incubation Centers, Software Technology Parks, Mobile Manufacturing, and the Telecom sector.

The minister's remarks highlight the government's recognition of the potential for growth and development in Pakistan's IT industry. With a skilled workforce, a growing digital infrastructure, and a conducive environment for technological innovation, Pakistan has become an attractive destination for investment in IT-related ventures.

The MOITT, under Syed Amin-ul-Haq's leadership, aimed to foster a favourable ecosystem for businesses and investors by providing necessary resources, infrastructure, and assistance.

This includes establishing Incubation Centers that offer support, mentoring, and resources to startups, facilitating the growth of emerging technology companies.

Additionally, Software Technology Parks will be established to create specialized zones equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, encouraging the growth of software development and IT-enabled services.

Furthermore, the government is keen on promoting mobile manufacturing in Pakistan, aiming to attract investment in this sector. By providing incentives and facilities, the MOITT aims to establish a robust mobile manufacturing industry that contributes to local employment, reduces imports, and strengthens the country's self-sufficiency in technology.

The Telecom sector, a vital component of Pakistan's digital transformation, also receives significant attention from the MOITT. The government aims to support and facilitate telecom companies, ensuring an enabling environment for their operations and promoting further investment in expanding and improving the country's telecom infrastructure.

Syed Amin-ul-Haq's announcement reinforces the government's commitment to promoting investment and fostering growth across multiple sectors, particularly in the realm of IT.

By offering comprehensive support and facilities, the MOITT aims to attract local and international investors, paving the way for technological advancement and economic progress in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Amer Ali Ahmed, Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Briefs a Delegation of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) about Various Initiatives of BISP.

ICCI Summit will help to promote tourism, business: Ambassadors

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassadors of Turkey, Malaysia and Syria in Pakistan have termed the first ICCI International Tourism Summit a great effort by the Islamabad Chamber for the promotion of tourism.

According to the ambassadors, the beauty of the northern regions of Pakistan can attract tourists from all over the world.

Attending the conference held in Skardu, one of the top tourist destinations in the world, is a very pleasant experience. The highest peaks of the northern regions of Pakistan can become the center of adventure tourism.

Turkey's Ambassador Dr Mehmet Paccaci said that like Turkey, Pakistan has great potential for tourism. Unfortunately, in the past, the security situation in Pakistan has been a hindrance to the development of tourism, but now things have improved. He said that the Islamabad Chamber has done its best by organizing the summit to present the

northern regions to the world. I hope that its positive effects will come out soon. He said that Turkey is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world where millions of tourists visit every year. Turkey is ready to fully cooperate with its brother country Pakistan in this regard. He said that Skardu is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Turkey is working to equip the airport here with modern facilities. We are trying to start Turkish Airlines direct flight to Skardu soon. Discussions are ongoing in this regard as well. He said that adventure tourism is developing in the world. There are many world highest peaks in the northern regions of Pakistan which can become a favorite place especially for European tourists.

President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce Ahsan Baktawari said that the Islamabad Chamber has organized this first event of its kind in the northern re-



QUETTA: A delegation of Anjuman-e-Tajiran led by its President Rahim Agha meeting with Balochistan Governor Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Ghanaian HC invites Pakistani industrialists to invest in Ghana

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Deputy Patron-in-Chief of KATI, Zubair Chhaya, highlighted the friendly relations between Ghana and Pakistan.

Standing body declares performance of Engineering Dev. Board unsatisfactory

ISLAMABAD (Online): Standing Committee on Industry and Production has been told that increase in interest rate is obstacle in development of small businesses.

The interest rate reached 22 percent.

First live stock farm is going to be built in Sheikhpura under name Royal Group in the name of Royal group.

This live stock farm will be made on collaboration with Chinese company and Royal Group.

Committee directed Secretary Finance to issue SME funds immediately.

The meeting of Committee was held under Chairman Committee Rana Mohammad Ishaq Khan in Parliament House.

Members of Committee said that institution has completed 25 years.

What goals have been achieved so far?

Industries of the country are in decline.

If we import tissue papers then what are we making?

Secretary for Industry and Production told that you have highlighted an important issue and it has several reasons.

We have not made

CEO EDB told that funds of SME are stuck in Ministry of Finance.

Sahiwal has great potential for rice, livestock.

He suggested that special banks should be formed for promotion of small and medium industries.

The interest rate should be reduced to benefit small businesses.

Members of Committee said that previous government gave a loan of 3 billion dollars at zero interest rate.

CEO said that we are limited to small industries and we are not aware of this loan. Before initiating of standing committee meeting for industry and production in National Assembly (NA) authorities of Engineering Development Board in proceedings of informal meeting told that 3 lakh 17 thousand vehicles were made in 2021-22. 1 lakh and 37 thousand vehicles were made in last year (10 months). There was a big drop in the production of vehicles. Import restrictions had also an impact. Secretary for industry and production said that government has also increased taxes on vehicles.



QUETTA: Regional Business Head UBL Balochistan Syed Shakir Agha meeting with Balochistan Governor Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

FAO delegation receives briefing about BISP's initiatives

ISLAMABAD (INP): A high-level Mission from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), led by Benjamin Davis, Director of the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equality Division at FAO HQ Rome, called on Secretary Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Amer Ali Ahmed, to discuss various initiatives of the programme.

During the meeting, Secretary BISP provided an overview of the BISP and its initiatives undertaken by it.

The FAO delegation also included Mark Johnson, Social Protection Expert at FAO HQ Rome, Bhalla Economist, also from FAO HQ Rome, Garima, Economist at FAO HQ Rome, and Aamer.

The meeting is part of their 5-day visit to Pakistan aimed at identifying technical support from FAO on poverty graduation.

Secretary BISP underscored the crucial role of the

Benzir Income Support Programme in providing cash support to the most vulnerable and marginalized segments of Pakistani society.

He highlighted the significance of the comprehensive dynamic database maintained by BISP, which serves as the foundation for effective programme's implementation.

During the meeting, Secretary BISP informed the delegation that the Benazir Income Support Programme currently provides cash assistance to over 9 million families.

He highlighted that the programme identifies women as the principal beneficiaries of their families. Furthermore, he emphasized how this programme is transforming the social landscape of Pakistan.

Ahmed also shared that there are currently 488 operational Nasonuma Centers under the Benazir Nasonuma Programme.



GILGIT: Farmers busy in collecting wheat for thrashing and making bundles.

Jazz launches Garaj Partner League to Transform Local IT, Technology Landscape

ISLAMABAD (INP): Garaj, Pakistan's fastest-growing local cloud service provider, recently launched the Garaj Partner League, which is the country's first-ever partnership program focused on building a vertical forward partner ecosystem.

The event garnered the presence of Garaj's new and prospective cloud partners, officials from the IT ministry, as well as professionals from the broader tech industry.

The Garaj cloud platform is built to provide a true cloud experience across industries and is hosted in Pakistan's largest rated 3 Datacenter where customer security and accessibility are prioritized, and solutions are tailored for customers' On-Demand and PAYG model. With its own self-service portal, Garaj enables customers to easily subscribe, auto-provision, and modify their subscriptions without the need for human interaction. The company currently operates two compliant and certified data centers in Lahore and Islamabad, and they are set to inaugurate another data center in Karachi by the end of this year.

Speaking at the occasion, Asif Aziz, Chief Business Officer at Jazz, said, "Cloud computing has the potential to unlock significant economic growth and pave the way for Pakistan's entry into the digital economy. Garaj's cloud services not only allow local data to remain within the country, boosting businesses and the economy, but also contribute to transforming Pakistan's cloud computing landscape in line with the national cloud policy".



Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani Join Forces to Empower Pakistan through Digital Health.

Zong 4G, Sehat Kahani Join Forces to Empower Pak thru Digital Health

ISLAMABAD (INP): Zong 4G, Pakistan's leading telecommunications operator, is pleased to announce a new chapter in its partnership with Sehat Kahani, a pioneering telemedicine platform.

The new collaboration was launched during a contract signing ceremony on the 7th of June in Islamabad.

The contract signing between Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani marks an important milestone in their partnership. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram, CEO of Sehat Kahani, and representatives from Zong 4G.

Through this collaboration, Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani aim to extend the reach of telemedicine services across Pakistan. Telemedicine has emerged as a game-changer in healthcare, allowing patients to consult healthcare professionals remotely, thereby reducing the barriers of distance and time. By harnessing Zong 4G's robust network infrastructure and Sehat Kahani's innovative telemedicine platform, individuals in even the most

remote regions will have access to quality healthcare. This year, Sehat Kahani and Zong 4G plan to increase awareness on a diverse selection of topics in the area of health and mental wellbeing.

Their focus will be on Oncology, water & air borne diseases, mental wellbeing, and lastly, mother and child health.

Zong 4G and Sehat Kahani have a long-standing relationship, having previously collaborated on various sustainability initiatives. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the two organizations joined forces to provide free online consultations, ensuring access to healthcare during challenging times. Furthermore, in the wake of the devastating floods that hit Pakistan in 2022, Sehat Kahani, with unwavering support from Zong 4G, established medical relief camps in the affected areas. This initiative showcased their commitment to delivering healthcare services to those in dire need.

Dr. Sara Saeed Khurram expressed her enthusiasm by speaking about the partnership, saying,

Cotton growers must carry out pest scouting twice a week

LAHORE (APP): The Punjab Agriculture department has advised the cotton growers to take necessary timely measures to get rid of weeds as they put negative impact on the growth of the crop.

A spokesman of the department said on Monday that farmers must carry out anti weed sprays as per the guidelines of the department. He said that cotton crop should be given water keeping in view the fertility of land, seed variety and condition of the crop. He said, "Juice sucking insects usually attack during moist weather so growers should stay alert and carry out pest scouting twice a week."

PSX stays bullish, gains 377 points

ISLAMABAD (INP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bullish trend on Monday, gaining 377.82 points, a positive change of 0.85 percent, closing at 44,585.13 points against 44,207.31 points the previous trading day.

A total of 440,221,059 shares were traded during the day as compared to 247,993,312 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.12,086 billion against Rs.8,512 billion on the last trading day. As many as 342 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 238 of them recorded gains and 82 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 22 companies remained unchanged.



LAHORE: Employees of Traffic yard Association Pakistan are shouting slogans during protest in the favor of their demands at Railway Station in Provincial Capital.

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

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

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

The president's meeting with British Prime

Minister Rishi Sunak, their fifth in as many months, lasted less than an hour, with the focus on Ukraine. "We've got a lot to talk about," said Biden as they sat in the garden of Sunak's Downing Street office. "Our relationship is rock-solid. Couldn't be meeting with a closer friend and a greater ally." Sunak and Biden shared notes before the NATO summit which kicks off on Tuesday. Ahead of the trip, Biden urged caution for now on Ukraine's campaign to join NATO, whose mutual defence pact obliges all members to come to the aid of any member that is attacked. "We want to work

with the U.S. and our allies on the pathway for Ukraine to join," Sunak's spokesperson told reporters, saying it would not be appropriate for Ukraine to join while the war was ongoing. The leaders also discussed the U.S. decision to send Ukraine cluster munitions, which are banned by more than 100 countries, including Britain, which view them as a potential threat to civilian populations because they typically release large numbers of smaller bomblets that can kill indiscriminately.

Britain's King Charles and The President of the United States, Joe Biden on stage in the Quadrangle at

Windsor Castle on July 10, 2023 in Windsor, England. Chris Jackson/Pool via REUTERS Russia, Ukraine and the United States have not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which bans their production, stockpiling, use and transfer. "We stand by our obligations under the convention, which include discouraging their use. There is no change from us on that, obviously it is for each country to make a decision," Sunak's spokesperson said.

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



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



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

United Nations humanitarian chief says Sudan appears to be in a civil war 'of the most brutal kind'

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: Sudan appears to be in a civil war "of the most brutal kind" and the world needs a new forum for talks in pursuit of a cease-fire, the United Nations humanitarian chief told the Associated Press on Monday.

Martin Griffiths spoke as regional leaders met in neighboring Ethiopia following the breakdown of peace talks in Saudi Arabia in June. Egypt says it will host lead-

ers from Sudan's neighbors on Thursday in search of peace, with few details. "We don't have a place, a forum, where the two parties are present... where we can broker the kind of basic agreements that we need to move supplies and people," Griffiths said. He called Sudan the toughest place in the world for humanitarian workers in terms of access and warned that the crisis will only worsen as the fighting spreads to new areas.

3 boats carrying 300 migrants go missing off Spain

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: At least 300 people were travelling on three migrant boats from Senegal to Spain's Canary Islands when they disappeared, migrant aid group Walking Borders said on Sunday.

Two boats, one carrying about 65 people and the other with between 50 and 60 on board, have been missing for 15 days since they left Senegal to try to reach Spain, Helena Maleno of Walking Borders said.

A third boat left Senegal on June 27 with about 200 people aboard. The families of those on board have not heard from them since they left, Maleno said.

All three boats left Kafountine in the south of Senegal, which is about 1,700 kilometres from Tenerife, one of the Canary Islands. "The families are very worried. There about 300 people from the same area of Senegal."

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

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Leaders of the Solomon Islands and China promised Monday to expand relations that have fueled unease in Washington and Australia about Beijing's influence in the South Pacific.

Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare met Chinese leader Xi Jinping and the country's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Qiang. Sogavare and Li presided over the signing of agreements on police, economic and technical cooperation. "We are here to further boost relations," Sogavare told Li following a ceremony at which a Chinese military band played the Solomon Is-

lands national anthem. The Solomon Islands, 2,000 kilometers (1,200 miles) northeast of Australia, has been China's biggest success in a campaign to expand its presence in the South Pacific. Sogavare's government switched official recognition in 2019 to Beijing from Taiwan, the self-governed island democracy claimed by the mainland's ruling Communist Party as part of its territory. "Solomon Islands, sir, has a lot to learn from China's development experience," Sogavare told Li. He welcomed an opportunity for dialogue to enhance "bilateral interaction and cooperation."

Israel Knesset set to vote on new Supreme Court bill

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Israel's parliament was scheduled on Monday to hold a first vote on a bill that limits some Supreme Court power, part of a rebooted judicial overhaul by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that has set off a deep political crisis.

The drive to change the justice system by Netanyahu's ruling coalition of nationalist and religious parties has sparked unprecedented protests, stirred concern for Israel's democratic health among its Western allies and bruised the economy.

Commanding 64 of the Knesset's 120 seats, Netanyahu's coalition appeared on course to win the vote, the first of three required for the new bill to be written into law, with protests likely to intensify should that happen.

The new bill seeks a curb on the Supreme Court's power to void decisions made by the government, ministers and elected officials by ruling them unreasonable.

Critics argue that such a law invites corruption and abuses of power.

Shavkat Mirziyoyev re-elected as Uzbekistan's President

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

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

them 87.05% voted in the favour of Shavkat Mirziyoyev. The preliminary results also indicate the performance of the other candidates in the election, with Ulugbek Inoyatov from the People's Democratic Party securing 4.2% of the vote, Robakhon Mahmudova from the "Adolat" Social Democratic Party receiving 4.43%, and Abdushukur Hamzaev from the Eco Party gaining 3.74%.

The overwhelming re-election of President Mirziyoyev reflects the continued confidence placed in his leadership and vision for the country.



A police cordon is placed in the aftermath of a stabbing attack at a kindergarten in Lianjiang county, Guangdong province, China.

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

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

As Ukraine's forces claimed more advances against Russian positions, Nato's 31 members agreed to simplify Kyiv's eventual accession bid by dropping a requirement that it completes a formal road map of reforms. Alliance leaders gathered in Vilnius on the eve of Tuesday's summit were hoping a meeting between Erdogan and Sweden's Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson would see the Turkish leader lift his veto on Sweden's membership.

But President Recep Tayyip Erdogan appeared in no mood to compromise, declaring that he would only back Sweden's Nato candidacy if European Union members — most of whom are also Nato allies

— agree to revive Turkey's negotiations to join the EU. The demand, never before made in public, threatened to open a new rift between Ankara and its Western partners, even as Nato and the EU tackle Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the continent's worst security crisis since World War II.

"Almost all the Nato members are EU members. I now am addressing these countries, which are making Turkey wait for more than 50 years," Erdogan said, before boarding his flight to the Lithuanian capital. "First, open the way to Turkey's membership of the European Union, and then we will open it for Sweden, just as we had opened it for Finland."

Germany's Chancellor Olaf Scholz, a powerful figure in both Nato and the EU, was quick to stress there was no link between Sweden's bid and Turkey's EU application, which was formally launched in 2005 but has stalled.

North Korean leader's powerful sister says war planes repelled US spy plane

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un alleged on Monday that the country's warplanes repelled a U.S. spy plane that flew over its exclusive economic zone and warned of "shocking" consequences if the U.S. continues reconnaissance activities in the area.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries did not immediately respond to the comments by Kim Yo Jong, one of her brother's top foreign policy officials, which were published in state media Monday evening.

Earlier Monday, North Korea's Defense Ministry issued a statement accusing the U.S. of flying spy planes into its "inviolable airspace" and warning that approaching aircraft might be shot down.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff responded by denying that the U.S. had flown spy planes into North Korean territory. Spokesperson Lee Sung

Joon said at a briefing that the U.S. was conducting standard reconnaissance activities in coordination with South Korea's military. Apparently in response to that comment, Kim accused the Joint Chiefs of Staff of acting like a "spokesperson" for the U.S. military and said the U.S. has been intensifying its reconnaissance activities in a serious infringement of North Korea's sovereignty and safety.

But while the North Korean Defense Ministry statement seemed to imply an intrusion into the country's territorial airspace, Kim accused the U.S. of sending spy planes over the North's exclusive economic zone, the area within 200 nautical miles of its territory where it controls rights to natural resources.

Kim said a U.S. spy plane crossed the eastern sea boundary between the Koreas at around 5 a.m. Monday and conducted reconnaissance activities.

Syrian Kurdish fighters kill at least 5 Turkey-backed gunmen in nighttime attack, activists say

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Syrian Kurdish fighters carried out an attack early Monday in northern Syria, killing at least five members of Turkey-backed Syrian opposition forces, activists said.

The attack south of the northern town of Afrin, which is held by the Turkey-backed forces, took place shortly after midnight on Sunday, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Meanwhile, Turkey's Defense Ministry confirmed that two Turkish soldiers were killed in an attack on Sunday by members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in northern Iraq. One of the soldiers died of his wounds in hospital.

The violence is the latest in a months-long escalation between Turkey and Turkish-backed groups, and Kurdish fighters in Syria and Iraq. Ankara says the main Syrian Kurdish militia is allied to the outlawed Kurdish group. PKK has led an insurgency against Turkey since 1984 that has killed tens of thousands of people.

The Observatory, an opposition war monitor,

said Monday's attack was carried out by the Afrin Liberation Forces, a Kurdish faction allied with the main Kurdish militia in Syria known as the People's Protection Units or YPG. The group has claimed scores of attacks against Turkey-backed Syrian fighters.

Syria-based opposition activist Taher al-Omar said the attack took place about 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Afrin. According to al-Omar, five members of the Turkey-backed faction Failaq al-Sham were killed. The Observatory said six died, but different tolls are not uncommon in the immediate aftermath of such attacks.

Afrin has been under the control of Turkey and its allied Syrian opposition fighters since 2018, following a Turkey-backed military operation that pushed Syrian Kurdish fighters and thousands of Kurdish residents from the area. Since then, the town and surrounding villages have been the site of attacks on Turkish and Turkey-backed targets. Ankara considers Syrian Kurdish fighters who control a swath of Syrian territory along Turkey's border to be terrorists.

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

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

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

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

Peskov told reporters that Putin had invited 35 people to the meeting, including Prigozhin and

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

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

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

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

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

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



Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy speaks with Poland's President Andrzej Duda during their meeting in Lutsk.

Sri Lanka to focus on energy, port projects with India during presidential visit

Monitoring Desk
COLOMBO: Sri Lanka is likely to discuss energy, power and port projects during a presidential visit to New Delhi next week, the foreign minister said on Monday, as India tries to push forward stalled initiatives with its crisis-hit neighbour. India's support was critical for Sri Lanka last year after it almost ran out of dollars and sank into a financial crisis that left it struggling to fund essential imports including fuel and medicine.

India provided about \$4 billion in rapid assistance between January and July in 2022, including credit lines, a currency-swap arrangement and deferred import payments.

Ukraine, Poland leaders jointly mark WWII massacres

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The Ukrainian and Polish presidents jointly marked the anniversary on Sunday of World War II-era massacres of Poles by Ukrainian nationalists, killings that have caused tension for generations between countries that are now close allies. Warsaw has positioned itself as one of Kyiv's staunchest supporters since Russia invaded the country in 2022.

But the Volhynia massacres have continued to hang over ties between the

two nations, particularly ahead of the July 11 anniversary of one of the bloodiest days of a series of killings that took place from 1943 to 1945. Poland says around 100,000 Poles were killed in the massacres by Ukrainian nationalists. Thousands of Ukrainians also died in reprisal killings.

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda attended a church service together in the western Ukrainian city of Lutsk, in memory of the victims.

UK pension funds back next phase of post-Brexit City shake up

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Aviva, Legal & General and seven other pension firms intend to invest 50 billion pounds (\$64 billion) in unlisted companies by 2030 to help the City of London remain a competitive global finance centre after Brexit, finance minister Jeremy Hunt said.

Under a non-binding agreement, Aviva, Scottish Widows, Legal & General, Aegon, Phoenix, NEXT, Mercer, M&G and Smart Pension will allocate at least 5% of direct contribution pension funds into unlisted companies by the start of the next decade.

Iran accuses U.S. Navy of defending fuel smuggling in Gulf incident

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: An Iranian Revolutionary Guards Commander accused the U.S. Navy on Monday of defending fuel smuggling in the Gulf by trying to interfere when Iran intercepted a ship last week.

"On July 6th, Revolutionary Guards' Navy personnel were inspecting a ship with the name NADA 2 that was involved in smuggling Iranian oil and gas in the Persian Gulf, which the Americans sought to prevent through a series of unprofessional and risky actions," IREG Commander Ramazan Zirrahi said in comments reported by Iran's Tasnim news agency.

On July 7th, Iran's Fars news agency reported that the Revolutionary Guards had seized a vessel carrying 900 tons of smuggled fuel with 12 crew members, following a court order.

"The Americans flew several aircraft, including two A-10 fighters, and tried until the last moment to prevent the seizure of the vessel, but it was eventually brought to Bushehr port for legal procedures," he added.

U.S. 5th Fleet spokesperson Commander Tim Hawkins had said last week that the U.S. Navy had monitored the interception of the ship in international waters but had decided not to make any further response. The incident was one of several involving Iranian forces and Gulf shipping last week. In another incident, the U.S. Navy said Iranian naval personnel had fired multiple, long bursts at the Bahamas-flagged Richmond Voyager managed by U.S. oil major Chevron, following Tehran's claims that the ship was involved in a collision which injured 5 crew members from an Iranian ship.

Digital economy vital for sustainable development, says Ahsan Iqbal

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

The minister made these remarks while speaking at the panel discussion titled: "Industrialization & Digital Era Connectivity," organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) here.

It is noted that the

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal is on a four-day official visit to China to attend a special commemorative 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) to be held on July 11 (tomorrow) to mark the 10-year celebrations of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The CPEC enters a significant milestone as it celebrates a decade of remarkable achievements in fostering economic growth, infrastructure development, and regional connectivity. While highlighting the importance of "Industrialization & Digital Era

Connectivity," the planning minister said that industrialization and digital-era connectivity have transformed the world as both have brought unprecedented opportunities for progress, economic growth, and global connectivity.

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

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

The E-commerce platforms and online marketplaces enable businesses to reach customers worldwide, expanding their customer base and opportunities for growth, explained the minister, while highlighting E-Pakistan, an important E of the 5Es framework which was launched recently by the Planning Ministry.

Furthermore, he highlighted that digital connectivity has provided businesses with the ability to access larger markets beyond their immediate geographical boundaries.



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



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with Chief Minister Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah and caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Syed Mohsin Naqvi examines a tractor during their visit of stalls in Green Pakistan Initiative inaugural ceremony, Islamabad.

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

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

"You have become a parody of yourself, as the events of May 9 turned into a bonfire of your vanities. The entire nation witnessed it, and there is ample evidence to demonstrate how you incited, masterminded, and provoked mob violence. It is utterly absurd to believe that deploying armed rioters against

state installations, Edhi ambulances, radio stations, and monuments honoring our war heroes as part of your self-serving 'save-Imran' campaign would result in any political gains for yourself," tweeted Senator Sherry Rehman, Federal Minister for Climate Change & Environmental Coordination in response to Chairman PTI Imran Khan's allegations on Twitter. Senator Rehman stated that the Pakistan Peoples Party had been a target of numerous politically charged persecutions over its history, but it has never resorted to attacking

the country's institutions like Khan did. "Despite enduring relentless targeting from both Imran Khan and the establishment, political parties maintained their dignity while facing endless political victimization. However, Khan's recent claim that women have never been incarcerated in Pakistan before now reflects a lack of historical awareness. Meanwhile, figures like Faryal Talpur and Maryam Nawaz were imprisoned by him as if they were terrorists. Rather than working towards democratic recovery in the face of his own failures.

Governor Balochistan says Role of traders, industrialists vital in strengthening economic system further

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that there is key role of traders and industrialists in strengthening further the economic system in the country and province.

The Governor was speaking to a delegation of traders who called on him under leadership of President, Markazi Anjumam Tajran Balochistan, Abdul Rahim Kakar, here at the Governor House on Monday.

The Governor said that we are not only well aware of the issues of the province especially of those from Quetta, but we also know their key role in promotion of economic activities.

He said that the trad-

ers and zamindars have been affected most right from drought to the world epidemic of COVID-19 and the devastating rains and floods. However, all available resources are being mobilized to provide profitable opportunities of the investment to the local traders and industrialists besides rehabilitation of the trade and business activities in the province.

Meanwhile, the members of delegation apprised the Governor about the issues being faced by the traders and industrialists of Quetta. They said that they are facing numerous problems for they sought cooperation of the Governor to resolve them. The Governor gave patient hearing to the issues and assured to play his part to resolve them.



QUETTA: Vice Chancellor University of Balochistan Prof. Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman and Vice Chancellor Sardar Bahadur Khan Women's University Prof. Dr. Sajida Naureen signing a MoU

Quetta to get 8.1m gallon water from Mangi dam by December 2023

QUETTA (APP): Mangi Dam is to be completed by December 2023 to provide around 8.1 million gallon of water daily to Quetta city and surrounding areas, an official of the Balochistan government said on Monday.

The development work on Mangi Dam had been accelerated which would help overcome the shortfall of water in the area, he added.

The construction of various dams on the outskirts of Quetta city including Mangi Dam, Srah Khullah Dam and others would supply water to

Quetta through pipelines. With the completion of these projects water issue would be resolved in the provincial capital, he added.

He said resolving the water issue was the top priority of the government. He added that steps were being taken to achieve the target and to ensure the availability of safe drinking water to the people of the province.

Mangi Dam being constructed with the cost of Rs 19 billion would ensure the availability of safe drinking water to the people of the province.

ANP expresses concern over unrest in Kurram on land dispute

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

In a statement issued here, he demanded of the provincial government and district administration to establish peace in the area and settle the matter amicably.

He said that there were reports that the local people were willing to establish peace but the administration was not agreeing, adding that such an impression should be dispelled.

He said that ANP would not tolerate negligence in the protection of the lives and properties of the people.

He appealed to all the leaders and youth of Parachinar to show patience and remain calm as no problem could be solved through the fight.

PTA clarifies false reports of Twitter blocking Pak govt's official account in G-B

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) has addressed recent claims circulating on social media and certain sections of the news media regarding Twitter's alleged blockage of access to the Government of Pakistan's official account in Gilgit-Baltistan and the platform changing the region's location to parts of India.

"PTA's thorough investigation has revealed that no such problem exists, contrary to the information being circulated" said a news release.

In response to the claims, PTA conducted extensive on-ground testing to ascertain the veracity of the reports.

The findings indicate that any sporadic issues encountered are limited to a very small number of iOS devices, affecting only a handful of users.

Fitch upgrades Pak to 'CCC', Dar greets nation

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

He congratulated Prime Minister, nation, government allies and economic team for this achievement. "Global Rating Agency 'Fitch' upgrades Pakistan's Long Term Foreign-Currency rating to

CCC from IDR (Issuer Default Rating)... Another positive news towards current economic revival journey. Congratulations to PM @CMShehbaz, the Nation, Govt Allies & Economic Team," the minister tweeted. The rating agency has identified key indicators that contributed to the positive development rating for the country which include improvement in easing external financing risks. It says the upgrade reflects Pakistan's improved external liquidity and funding conditions following its Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on a nine-month Stand-By Arrangement.

CM approves Rs. 5million for protection of "Princess of Hope" at Lasbela

Independent Report QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has approved Rs. 5 million for protection of the tourism point of naturally built statue of the "Princess of Hope" located at the Makran coastal highway, Lasbela.

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the approval has been given by the Chief Minister on the summary sent by the Culture, Tourism and Archive Department, Government of Balochistan.

With this initiative, the protection of historical tourism place of the province would be ensured.

It may be mentioned here that the general public and civil society representatives had raised the voice for protection of the historical place some time back. The Chief Minister has approved the immediate release of the funds for protection of the important tourism place of the province.

Shaheed Skindar Uni building completed with cost of Rs, 2.84 billion

QUETTA (APP): Building of Shaheed Skindar University Khuzdar was completed with huge amount of Rs. 2.84 billion in three years by efforts of former Chief Minister Balochistan Nawab Sanaulah Zehri.

According to press release, Vice Chancellor would be appointed soon for the University and processes of higher education to be launched for interest of students of Khuzdar and the completion of university building would be brought in changing of education in Jhalwan area of Khuzdar.

However, Ex. CM Balochistan, Chief of Jhalwan Nawab Sanaulah Khan Zehri had laid foundation stone of the University in tenure of regime.

The press release further said that the building of the varsity was made earthquake proof which would be resolved the remote areas of Khuzdar while they had moved to other areas of country including Karachi and other areas in past for getting education.



BEIJING: Federal Minister for planning and Development Prof. Ahsan Iqbal addressing the Global panel for Industrialization and Digital-Era of Connectivity.

CPEC laid solid foundation for Pakistan's future development: Haque

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque has said that China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), as a flagship project to jointly build the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has changed Pakistan's infrastructure layout and laid a solid foundation for Pakistan's future development.

During President Xi Jinping's visit to Pakistan in 2015, the two countries signed more than 50 cooperation agreements and launched a number of projects such as energy, transportation infrastructure and port construction under the CPEC framework, he told People's Daily in an interview.

He said that the power generation and distribution projects launched and completed by Pakistan and China have greatly alleviated Pakistan's power shortage and enhanced Pakistan's trade and investment image. By the end of 2022, the CPEC had directly created 236,000 jobs.

Terming Gwadar Port as the pearl of the CPEC, which is crucial to Pakistan's economic transformation, he said that this year, many key projects, including New Gwadar International Airport, will make important progress. The new projects will accelerate the development of Gwadar Port and the Free Trade Area.

Ambassador Haque said that the second phase of the construction of the CPEC has been launched, which will strongly promote the cooperation between the two countries in industry, science and technology, agriculture and other fields.

The CPEC is of great significance to Pakistan's economic development and social progress, which is the general consensus of all sectors in Pakistan, he added.

Ababki praises development work initiated in Mastung

MASTUNG (APP): Social Activist Hafiz Abdul Wahid Ababki has praised the development work initiated with the fund of former chief minister Aslam Khan Raisani to resolve civic issues in Mastung and ensure basic facilities to its masses. Speaking in a meeting with Hafiz Abdul Wahid Ababki, former Chief Minister Balochistan and Member of the Provincial Assembly, Nawab Aslam Raisani said that the provincial government has earmarked a huge development fund to improve the infrastructure of Mastung city by including various development schemes in annual development programme. The provision of clean drinking water to the people of Saddiqabad and Sariab Farm area, the construction of Saddiqabad-Shaikh Wasil road.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting regarding affairs of PFM-II

PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to meet UN SDGs with enhanced coop.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that Pakistan was keen to expand its cooperation with partner countries to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)-2030.

The prime minister virtually participated in the First High-Level Forum on Global Development Initiative (GDI). Held under the theme of Global Development Initiative: "Echo the Development Agenda and Call for Global Action", the forum was organized by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA), the PM

Office Media Wing said in a press release.

PM Shehbaz, in his remarks, stressed the salience of international development cooperation to present a unified global response for socio-economic development, mitigation of climate change threats, and galvanizing new drivers of growth for humanity's enduring progress and prosperity.

He also appreciated China for launching the Global Development Initiative for achieving shared goals of inclusive and sustainable global development.

Extending Pakistan's

firm support to the GDI, the prime minister said that Pakistan would continue its multifaceted cooperation with China for swift implementation of the GDI projects in Pakistan.

The event was attended by Wang Yi, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of China and Director of the General Office of CPC Foreign Affairs Commission, State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Chairman CIDCA, Luo Zhaohui.

Leading experts and executives from several countries and international organizations also participated in the forum.



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

Dr Ramesh says Tourism promotion to help in making Pak development roadmap

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State, Chairman Prime Minister's Task Force on Gandhara Tourism Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani Monday said the promotion of religious tourism would play a key role in making a roadmap of prosperity and development of the country.

He was flanked by a delegation of Buddhist monks from Vietnam here, the minister said the incumbent government was serious about promoting and projecting the country's tourism to highlight the soft image of the country.

He said that Pakistan was fully safe for tourists, and offered the rich cultural heritage of the ancient Gandhara Civilization. He said the promotion of religious tourism would lead to enhance commercial activities and attract foreign exchange. Dr. Ramesh Kumar

said the symposium would also help to promote the soft image of the country and provide connectivity with the world.

A three-day international Gandhara symposium will commence in Islamabad on July 11 to showcase the treasure trove Gandhara Civilization and Buddhist Heritage in Pakistan, he added.

Speaking on the occasion, the Buddhist Monks from Vietnam lauded Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and his government for facilitating Buddhist people and followers of other faiths to explore Gandhara Civilization and sites of Buddhism in Pakistan. They said there will be more travelers in the future to visit the cultural heritage of Pakistan. They urged the mediato play its due role in promoting Gandhara civilization.



QUETTA: A protest demonstration being held for release of Saleem Baloch and other Baloch students organized by Baloch Yakjehti Committee.

Former PPP MNA Usman Advocate quits party; says PPP going to become BAP

Independent Report QUETTA: The former Member National Assembly, Muhammad Usman Advocate has announced to part ways with the party alleging that the party (PPP) has been blackmailed at hands of the non-political people in the province.

The former MNA belonging to PPP was addressing a press conference here at the Quetta Press Club on Monday.

Muhammad Usman Advocate also charted that death squad is being brought before the BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal while the Provincial Minister Home, Ziaullah Langoo and IG Police held talks with the criminal people.

The former MNA said that he had raised the issue with the former President and central PPP leader, Asif Ali Zardari that non-political people are joining the party.

He said that he decided to resign from the party just because of joining the party by some "non-political and criminal people."

Muhammad Usman Advocate also charted that death squad is being brought before the BNP chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal while the Provincial Minister Home, Ziaullah Langoo and IG Police held talks with the criminal people.