

Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with Beat Reporters at Prime Minister's office.

Decision on caretaker PM likely today: Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday expressed the hope that the decision on name of caretaker prime minister would be finalised by Saturday.

The prime minister, in a farewell interaction with the PM beat reporters here, said he would meet the heads of coalition parties on Friday night to discuss the matter which would follow his meeting with Raja Riaz on Friday or Saturday.

He explained that in case of their inability to evolve consensus on a single name, the matter would be referred to the parliamentary committee with a mandate to dispose it of within three days. In case of no agreement at that committee level, the matter would be taken up by the Election Commission who would have to take the final decision within two days.

Responding to a question about the letter written by President Arif Alvi to him and the opposition

leader to finalise the name by August 12, the prime minister said the procedure was very clear in the constitution.

He said the 16 months of his stint were the most difficult time of his 38-year political career. However, consequent to the teamwork and efforts of all the stakeholders made the government achieve success on different fronts.

He said the government machinery worked round the clock during the floods and Rs100 billion was disbursed by the previous government, besides the ones distributed by the provinces and the relevant departments.

He said the agreement with the IMF was a great challenge that was surmounted by the team's efforts otherwise, the country could have faced chaos.

Recounting his government's success at the diplomatic front, the prime minister said they had improved the ties with friendly countries which were strained during the

previous government through baseless allegations. He said the inflation had touched 12.55 which was just 3.5% during the Nawaz Sharif's tenure.

He said the government had to spend \$2 billion to import wheat following the reduced production.

Without naming the news story about the cipher, the prime minister said, "What happened yesterday has exposed everything."

He said the oil prices were not in the government's control; however, they passed on the impact whenever there was any decline.

He told the newsmen that the government had put in place a mechanism in the form of Special Investment Facilitation Council which was a vision for country's progress and prosperity.

Online adds: President Arif Alvi's letter to the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition and asked to finalise the caretaker Prime Minister.

Development in society possible only with better governance: President

Urges civil servants to improve service-delivery, ensure good governance

LAHORE (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has urged civil servants to work with dedication and commitment to improve service delivery and ensure good governance in the country. He also underscored the need to take timely and swift decisions to keep pace with the rest of the world.

Addressing the successful graduates of the 118th Senior Management Course (SMC) and 33rd National Management Course (NMC) at the National School of Public Policy here on Friday, he said that Islam was a community-based religion and it emphasised serving the poor and showing utmost compassion to them.

"A civil servant must interact with the public and be easily accessible to them in order to address their problems. This principle has been practised by great caliphs of Islam," Dr

Alvi said, adding that welfare of the community should be the first priority of a civil servant.

He said that brilliant civil servants were an antidote to the state's ills and that people with the right attitude could change the world around them. He remarked that the country needed such people more than before as the country was faced with multiple challenges. Dr Alvi urged the civil servants to follow in the footsteps of the former great civil servants and become a source of resistance against hypocrisy and corruption, besides ensuring good governance.

The president said that keeping pace with modern knowledge was also vital to national progress and the bureaucracy must play its role in steering the country out of problems, and put it on the path to progress.

Terms it unconstitutional SC declares Review of Judgments and Orders Act null and void

Power to invalidate any law should be exercised with utmost care and a law should not be declared invalid when its provisions have compatibility with the Constitution

ISLAMABAD (APP): A three member bench of the apex court on Friday unanimously declared the Supreme Court Review of Judgments and Orders Act 2023 as null and void.

The court issued a written order of 87 pages in the case and said that the Parliament has no powers for legislation against the constitution. The bench issued a detailed decision containing 51 pages while Justice Munib Akhtar wrote an additional note containing 30 pages.

The judgment said that the power to invalidate any law should be exercised with utmost care and a law should not be declared invalid when its provisions have compatibility with the Constitution.

It stated that the said act was clearly contradicting the Constitution of Pakistan and it was not possible to declare this law as compatible with the Constitution. We have taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, it said, adding that the courts are empowered to establish the rule of the Constitution.

The verdict said that this judicial power had to be exercised with great care to determine whether the law is according to the Constitution or not? The legislation for Supreme Court Reviews of Judgments and Orders Act is beyond the power of Parliament. The court said that there was no ambiguity in the Supreme Court decisions on the scope of revision, adding that Article 188 and the implementation of judicial decisions on it was binding on all. It said the Parliament knows that appeal and revision are two different things.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a ceremony in connection with celebration of Minorities' Day event, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Governor dissolves Sindh Assembly

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori on Friday dissolved the Provincial Assembly on the advice of Chief Minister Sayed Murad Ali Shah.

Governor, in the exercise of powers, conferred to him under Article 112(1) of the constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, dissolved Sindh As-

sembly with immediate effect.

Earlier, Chief Minister Sayed Murad Ali Shah sent advice to Governor Sindh for the dissolution of the provincial Assembly.

Meanwhile, Sindh Law and Parliamentary Affairs and Criminal Prosecution Department also issued a notification in this regard.



QUETTA: Commander 12 Corps Lt. General Asif Ghafoor meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Security forces kill two terrorists in Kech operation

RAWALPINDI (APP): The security forces have killed two terrorists and injured one during a successful intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Mazaband Range area of Kech District, Balochistan in the wee hours of Friday.

According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release on Friday, a big cache of arms and ammunition was also recovered during the operation.

The killed terrorists were involved in targeting of innocent civilians and law enforcement agencies.

The ISPR said, "The security forces remain committed towards eliminating the menace of terrorism and thwart nefarious designs of the enemies of Pakistan at all costs."

No restriction on Nawaz after completing 5-year disqualification: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said there was no restriction on Pakistan Muslim League-N supremo Nawaz Sharif to contest the election as he had completed his five-year disqualification period.

"Inshallah, I am sure that he will return by next month... He will face the law. The nation will receive him warmly... He will run the election campaign and all of us will be with him," he stated.

Commenting about the Supreme Court's decision on the Supreme Court (Review of Judgments and Orders) Act 2023, the prime minister said the legislature had all the powers of law-making.



MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF
Prime Minister of Pakistan



MS. MARIYUM AURANGZEB
Ex. Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting

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for their support.



26th PHL Annual Conference begins: Governor calls for creating awareness among masses about prevention of diseases

Independent Report
QUETTA: The 26th edition of Pakistan Hypertension League (PHL) Annual Conference commenced here in the provincial metropolis on Friday evening. The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar formally inaugurated the PHL Annual conference.

A large number senior doctors dealing the health issues related to hypertension and heart diseases are participating in the annual conference of PHL.

Appreciating the organizers for holding PHL conference, the Governor said that it is good to see the senior doctors from all over the country while attending the conference in Quetta. He hoped that the local doctors would benefit from the experiences of the senior doctors and utilize the knowledge gained through the conference in their professional career.

He said that it is responsibility of the government to ensure best health care services for the people particularly those suffering from different diseases.

However, there's also a need to create awareness among the people about the health issues and their prevention, adding he stressed.

May-9 vandalism: ATC dismisses interim bail of Imran in 7 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday dismissed the interim bail of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan over non-appearance in seven cases pertaining to May-9 vandalism.

ATC Judge Ijaz Ahmad Buttari conducted the proceedings on the pre-arrest bail petitions of Imran Khan in seven cases, registered under Anti-Terrorism Act, including the Jinnah House attack case.

Earlier, Imran Khan's counsel argued before the court that bail petitions could not be dismissed over non-appearance. He submitted that as per the Supreme Court judgments, the bail petitions could not be dismissed on technical grounds. He pleaded with the court to grant some time for preparation in this regard.

However, the court dismissed the plea and asked the counsel to advance his arguments on the law point.

The counsel submitted that convicts and accused were regularly produced on the court orders and pleaded with the court to summon the PTI chairman as well.

At this, the court observed that the convicts were not produced and their interim bail was also dismissed, adding that it could not form a new law.

The counsel submitted that the PTI chairman appeared regularly before the court and he still wanted to appear.

ATF personnel martyred in Mastung attack

Independent Report
MASTUNG: A personnel of the Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) was martyred and his brother was seriously injured in a gun attack in the Mastung district of Balochistan on Friday.

Police sources said unknown accused opened fire in the Killi Baqi area of Kanak tehsil of Mastung district. The firing left one ATF personnel identified as Muhammad Ibrahim martyred and his brother Muhammad Saqib seriously injured. The injured was rushed to Shaheed Nawab Ghous Bakhsh Raisani Hospital for medical treatment.

97 pc target of polio vaccination achieved as high profile drive ends in Balochistan

Independent Report
QUETTA: Almost 97 percent target of the polio vaccination has been achieved during the high profile anti-polio vaccination campaign that came to an end in Balochistan province the other day.

The anti-polio campaign was launched for five days in 32 districts of the province on Tuesday last. The campaign was run for seven days in polio high risk districts of the province including Quetta, Chaman, Pishin and Killa Abdullah.

According to Emergency Operation Center (EOC) for Polio Eradication sources, it was targeted to vaccinate around 2.6 million children below five years of age during the campaign. For the purpose, hundreds of the mobile and fixed site teams have been formed.

While the campaign was successfully run all over the province despite certain issues and particularly the challenges of weather including rains and flood, the anti-polio health workers reached the far flung areas to administer the anti-polio drops to the children. An untoward incident was also occurred when two police cops deputed on security of the polio workers were targeted and shot dead in Killi Shah Alam area located in Quetta suburb in start of the campaign.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Hamza Shafqaat and DGPR Kamran Asad inaugurating Duty Monitoring Room set up in DGPR

Saturday August 12, 2023

A fresh start

It ended in circumstances as controversial as the ones that gave birth to it. The 15th National Assembly — formed following the chaotic general elections of 2018 — stood dissolved on Thursday on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's advice, merely two days before it was to complete its constitutional, five-year tenure. Over its term, it saw two prime ministers sworn into office. One was constitutionally removed for his mismanagement of the economy; the other is about to leave Pakistani democracy considerably compromised. In roughly the same period, two former prime ministers were handed disqualification and jail terms for "corrupt practices".

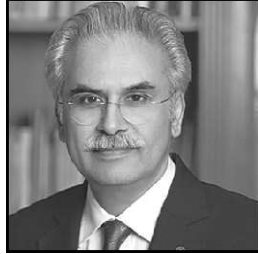
And, over the entirety of this period, Pakistan was run less like the democratic parliamentary republic envisaged in the Constitution and more like a hybrid system in which elected representatives took most of the blame while their 'handlers' took most of the decisions.

Former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi is perhaps not wrong in regretting that the outgoing Assembly may have been "the worst in Pakistan's history". It not only failed in its fiduciary duty under two separate governments, but it also actively undermined Parliament by ceding unprecedented power to unelected quarters. Former prime minister Imran Khan set the tone by outsourcing his government's control to the intelligence apparatus. The latter whipped up votes and coddled or coerced the PTI's coalition partners when the prime minister himself was not in the mood to play nice.

The then opposition, too, did not help matters by creating what was sometimes an overly hostile environment, pushing the thin-skinned PTI leadership to opt for ordinances to execute its legislative goals. The PDM tenure saw a continuation of the same once the new government realised that it, too, had little patience or will to play by the rules when 'easier' solutions existed.

The transference of power from elected to unelected decision-makers intensified following the May 9 violence this year, as extensive control over internal affairs was handed over to the security establishment. Its influence has now crept into economic decision-making, industry, and, lately, legislative business.

But the 15th Assembly is no more, and the upcoming elections offer an opportunity to undo its mistakes. The aspirants to the 16th National Assembly must demand that the polls follow the constitutionally defined schedule and be conducted in a free and fair environment. They owe this to their constituents. The next setup must avoid the controversies that dogged the last one if it is to return any stability to the country. Any attempts to extend the tenure of the caretaker government or influence election results through pre-poll engineering should be resisted across the board. If the last five years have taught us anything, it is that tinkering with the democratic process is a recipe for disaster.



Zafar Mirza

Diabetes is on a rampage in Pakistan. We are now a country with the third largest population of diabetic adults after China and India. According to the 10th edition of an atlas produced by the International Diabetes Federation in 2021, Pakistan has 33 million adults with diabetes. This comes to approximately one in four adults above 20 years of age. Even more alarmingly, if we do not take remedial action in terms of prevention and treatment, by 2030 this number is projected to swell to around 43 million, if negligence continues, by 2050, the diabetic population will rise to 62 million. Currently, 8.9 million people are also estimated to be undiagnosed and another 11 million adults have impaired glucose intolerance, ie pre-diabetes.

In 1990, diabetes didn't even appear among the 25 leading causes of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) in Pakistan; ie, years of life lost due to premature death plus years lived with disability. By 2019, however, diabetes had jumped to become the eighth leading cause of DALYs. In the decade between 2009 and 2019, death and disability due to diabetes increased by 87 per cent in Pakistan. The trends are dire.

Why is there such a huge number of patients and how to stop this onslaught?

But before that, a word about diabetes, which is commonly known in Pakistan as sugar khee beemar. In medical science, it is known as diabetes mellitus. Etymologically, both these words are of Greek origin — 'diabetes' means excessive urine and 'mellitus' means sweet. The disease has been known for millennia but the breakthrough came as recently as 1921-22, when a group of researchers in Toronto purified insulin for clinical use. The WHO describes diabetes as "a chronic disease that occurs either when the

pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood glucose. Hyperglycaemia, also called raised blood glucose ... is a common effect of uncontrolled diabetes and over time leads to serious damage to many of the body's systems, especially the nerves and blood vessels."

Insulin is essential for the entry of glucose — the ultimate source of energy for us — into cells. In Type 1 diabetes, for unknown reasons, the pancreas no longer produces insulin. The disease requires insulin on a daily basis. Type 1 diabetics cannot survive without insulin. Before the discovery of insulin, Type 1 diabetes was almost a death sentence.

Type 2 diabetes prevents our body from using insulin properly, which can lead to high levels of blood sugar. If not treated properly, it leads to serious physical damage, especially to the feet, eyes, kidneys and heart but, generally, it affects the whole body. Diabetics are also more prone to developing de-

pression. The 33 million diabetics in Pakistan actually have Type 2 diabetes. Type 1 diabetes, or insulin-dependent diabetes, affects a relatively minuscule number of people.

So, what has changed in Pakistan that we have such a huge growth in diabetes? Bhutta, Haq and Basit, in an article in The Lancet last year, discussed the 'crisis'. The causality is multifactorial, and a result of coexisting genetic and environmental factors. But then, how have genetics and the environment changed to give rise to the current crisis situation? Let's break it down.

Genes with diabetes association and their wide spectrum of variants have been identified. Genetic factors become more significant due to repeated marriages among close relatives; ie consanguinity. Due to high consanguinity in Pakistan, the probability of genetic expression increases. So, repeated marriages within the family increase the chances of diabetes.

But the real issues lie on the environment side. The drastic, negative changes in our lifestyle and diets are considered to be

the main culprits behind the high prevalence of diabetes. Along with other non-communicable diseases (NCDs), also called chronic diseases — such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, chronic respiratory disease — diabetes has a strong link with environmental and behavioural factors like unhealthy diet (malnutrition), lack of exercise (obesity), smoking, high blood pressure, air pollution and stress. All these are considered high-risk factors. Rural-urban transition has also played a major role in epidemiological transition to NCDs. Tracing 30-year trends in estimated deaths due to major disease groups in Pakistan reveals it was around 2010 when, for the first time, more deaths in the country happened due to NCDs rather than infectious diseases.

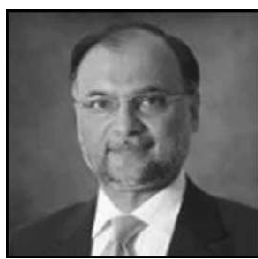
What is to be done? Prevention, early diagnosis through mass screening, and proper management are vital — which is easier said than done as it requires a comprehensive health system response. This includes integrated delivery of preventive, promotive, curative and rehabilitative health services at all levels

of the healthcare system, but most importantly at primary healthcare level. The onslaught of NCDs, including diabetes, cannot be dealt with at big hospitals. It requires a strong PHC with full involvement of trained community health workers and a life-long continuum of care. Our health system is not equipped to deal with the epidemic of diabetes. It needs sustained and coordinated whole-of-government and societal efforts. The private health sector also has to be taken into the loop.

Professor Abdul Basit, head of the Baqai Institute of Diabetes and Endocrinology, is an authority on diabetes in Pakistan and he is working hard to turn the tide. He has led national diabetes surveys, registry and research, and contributes immensely at national and international levels. He has developed a plan to establish a national diabetes network consisting of 3,000 NDN clinics across the country through private providers. These clinics will provide the best possible care to diabetics without discrimination. -- Courtesy Dawn

Bitter sweet

The 5Es framework



Ahsan Iqbal

Given that elected governments in Pakistan tend to have a short-policy horizon, they are often criticized for not developing long-term policies and plans. In sharp contrast to that, PML-N governments have always prioritized long term planning by providing long-term policy documents such as Vision 2010 and Vision 2025. As the current term in government, which came with huge socio-economic and constitutional challenges ends, I am pleased to share that a long-term policy framework called the 5Es Framework has been developed. The framework offers a tangible pathway for economic revival in five priority areas: exports, e-Pakistan, environment and climate change, energy and infrastructure, and equity and empowerment.

Through simultaneous progress on these 5Es, I strongly believe that we can put the country on a steady course to sustainable and long-run economic growth.

To develop a broad consensus in our polarized society, we opted for a deliberative and consultative process to develop 5Es framework. In this regard, the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives organized the

Pakistan Turnaround Conference in June 2022 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This conference provided us with broad contours to develop a framework for the economic recovery.

The Planning Commission chalked out the concrete 5Es Framework on the basis of deliberations at the conference and additional input from the relevant ministries, departments and academia. The framework comprises multi-pronged strategies and a variety of initiatives to put Pakistan on a sustained growth trajectory in the short to medium term. Most of these strategies and initiatives are already in the implementation phase, and have been included in the Public Sector Development Program 2023-24.

To state the obvious, the PTI regime had left Pakistan with an unprecedented economic crisis, including large current account and fiscal deficits, double-digit inflation, massive depreciation of domestic currency and dwindling foreign exchange reserves. Economic revival has been the government's topmost priority since assuming office in April last year. Through extensive consultations with an array of stakeholders, the root causes of the persisting economic crisis were identified. Chief among them was the structural problem of boom-bust cycles, where every boom was followed by a balance of payments challenge. Consumption-led high growth episodes were financed by borrowed resources. Consequently, the economy continued to face twin deficits, causing stag-

gered growth.

Exports is the first E of this framework due to its critical value. All successful economies in the Global South — for example, China, Vietnam and South Korea — have opted for an export-led growth model. Pakistan has historically relied on import-based consumption, which has led to imbalances in its payments. Now we have to shift towards this export-led growth model to tackle the chronic boom-and-bust cycles by addressing foreign currency liquidity challenges, and keep the economy competitive by laying emphasis on productivity enhancement, product and market diversification, brand development, trade facilitation and linking production networks with global value chains.

The outgoing government launched several initiatives to boost exports, including the National Productivity Master Plan in collaboration with APO and KDI to enhance productivity, trade agreements with Central Asian and Gulf states, and establishment of a border market with Iran to improve intra-regional trade, rationalization of tariff, launch of the Export Readiness Program, promulgation of GI Law for Trade Mark registration, e-Tijarat and E-Commerce Export Framework to boost the exports of Information and Communication Technology products, and the Board of Investment's Pakistan Regulatory Reform Initiative to improve the ease of doing business in Pakistan.

The second E is e-Pakistan, which recognizes the transformative power of

information and communication technology and hence aims to build a digital economy and enhance digital infrastructure in Pakistan. Currently, ICT exports are estimated to exceed \$2.5 billion, significantly low as compared to regional competitors. The current workforce employed in the IT sector is around 625,000 including freelancers. Universities produce 25,000 graduates approximately every year. The global market size of robotics and artificial intelligence alone is projected to exceed \$563 billion by 2030.

To create a holistic digital ecosystem with infrastructure and institutional frameworks for rapid delivery of innovative digital services, the government has taken several steps like formulation of the E-Commerce Policy, establishment of the National Information Technology Board, National Incubation Centres, National Centre of Robotic and Automation, National Centre for Cyber Security, Centre for Excellence in AI. These measures will boost the IT sector, improve service delivery, and drive economic prosperity.

The third E — environment and climate change — highlights the importance of addressing environmental challenges and climate change. Pakistan faces significant challenges in ensuring the sustainability of its environment, water resources, and food security. In recent years, the impact of climate change has worsened these challenges. The devastating floods of last year clearly manifested why Pakistan was ranked as the eighth most vulner-

able on the Climate Risk Index of 2021. Due to a rising population and lack of water resource governance, Pakistan will soon face a water security crisis. Moreover, the frequency of droughts has increased over the past decade, posing immediate food security risks.

The outgoing government adopted several measures to mitigate the effects of climate change. Salient among them are the Clean Green Pakistan Initiative, National Clean Air Policy 2023, the 4RF Strategy, the Sindh Coastal Resilience Project, Green Infrastructure for Resilient Cities, Rural Development and Climate Resilience in Gilgit-Baltistan, Resilience Enhancement, and Livelihood Diversification in Balochistan. Food and water security projects included: vertical farming, regenerative farming, productivity enhancement of rice, sugarcane and wheat, the Naulung Dam Project, the Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation Project, and wastewater treatment through bioremediation.

The fourth E is energy. Energy shortages have long plagued Pakistan's socio-economic stability. From 2013 to 2018, Pakistan undertook an ambitious initiative under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to meet these shortfalls, adding 12,230MW to the energy mix. In addition to electricity generation projects, the flagship 660 KV HVDC Transmission Line Project from Matiari to Lahore for generation of 4,000MW capacity has enhanced the grid infrastructure. The government has made significant investments in electricity

generation, including coal, hydro, and renewable sources. Initiatives such as for green building codes and climate-resilient infrastructure will ensure affordable and sustainable energy solutions.

The government is also making concerted efforts to diversify its energy mix by investing in renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and hydro power. In this regard, the Alternative and Renewable Energy Policy provides a supportive environment for renewable power projects, and increases the share of green energy capacity to 20 per cent by 2025 and 30 per cent by 2030 through attracting private capital in the area of green energy. Consequently, this nudge has shown positive results.

In short, the 5Es Framework provides a comprehensive approach to turn Pakistan's economy around. Pakistan has the potential to overcome its economic challenges and emerge as a vibrant and prosperous nation on the global stage. By focusing on export-led growth, digital transformation, environmental sustainability, energy diversification, and inclusive growth, the country can achieve sustainable economic development.

Implementing the 5Es requires strong commitment from all key stakeholders. We need to go beyond divisive, polarized and hate-based politics and must remain committed to implementing the necessary structural reforms that will guide Pakistan on to a sustainable path of economic prosperity. -- Courtesy TheNews

Energy Projects Energising CPEC

By Kamran Raja

Energy has remained the core focus of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and helped to reduce power shortage in Pakistan. CPEC is expected to have a significant impact on the energy sector in Pakistan. The corridor includes a number of energy projects, including hydropower plants, coal-fired power plants, and wind farms.

These energy projects have a number of benefits for local people. First, they are helping to reduce Pakistan's reliance on imported energy. Currently, Pakistan imports a significant amount of its energy, which is a drain on the country's economy. The energy projects under CPEC will help to reduce this reliance, which will save the country money.

Second, the energy projects under CPEC are creating jobs. The construction and operation of these projects require a large number of workers, which will provide employment opportunities for local people.

Third, the energy projects under CPEC are helping to improve the lives of people in rural areas. Many people in rural areas do not have access to electricity. The energy projects under CPEC have helped to bring electricity to these areas, which will improve the quality of life for many people.

In addition to these

benefits, the energy projects under CPEC are also expected to have a number of positive social changes. For example, they are expected to help to reduce poverty and improve education and healthcare.

Overall, the energy projects under CPEC are expected to have a significant positive impact on the lives of local people in Pakistan. They will help to reduce reliance on imported energy, create jobs, improve access to electricity, industrial growth and bring about positive social changes.

CPEC is making ways for Pakistan to achieve its sustainable energy needs, especially to build its renewable energy power generation capacity from the current 4 per cent to 30 per cent in 2030. The energy cooperation on CPEC is ongoing between China and Pakistan. Overall, there are 21 energy projects under this fate-changing project initiative between both countries. Among these, around a dozen have been completed, and the rest are in the process of completion and are at different stages of development.

In fact, Pakistan was a country that experienced an acute energy crisis previously. Electricity shortages exceeded 7,000MW in the year of 2011. The energy shortage emerged because Pakistan had lacked the power generation capacity. The energy shortfall emerged largely due to the failure of attracting the in-

vestment at a level required for expansion and maintenance of power generation on pace with the growing demand.

However, after the launch of CPEC, Pakistan has constructed new power generating plants which has drastically enhanced the country's energy generation capacity. At present, Pakistan has acquired the capacity to produce more electricity than its requirement. According to the statistics of Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-2020, Pakistan acquired the installed capacity of 35,972MW in 2020. In the same year, Pakistan's consumption capacity stood around 25,000MW. Previously, the primary structural problem of power sector was expansion of power generating units which has already been addressed under the CPEC energy framework and installation of power plants outside of CPEC cooperation.

In total, around 12,000 megawatts of energy would be generated through 21 energy projects envisioned under the ambit of CPEC energy projects. The 21 energy projects will cost around USD \$25 billion. At the moment, over a dozen energy projects have been completed and operationalised at full capacity.

Energy projects completed under CPEC featuring advanced technologies and lower cost not only provided a solution to

Pakistan's electricity shortage, which was a historic achievement for the country but also helped Pakistan improve its energy structure and reduce the cost of power generation.

According to official sources, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydropower, stands at 6,570 MW. They generated 28,549.94 Gwh and 25,772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan.

As the CPEC energy projects replaced the costlier energy production from furnace oil and diesel to coal and renewable energy resources in the last five years, the energy needs of Pakistan have been fulfilled at lower prices, driving growth in the export-oriented industries.

The Karot Hydropower Plant, the first hydropower investment project under CPEC, and the second phase of the Thar Block II power station project both went into commercial operations in succession in year 2022. The hydropower plant provided Pakistan with clean yet low-priced electricity while the coal-power projects into Pakistan's coal resources for power generation, economizing local precious foreign exchange resource.

Additionally, there are many other hydropower projects which are under

construction. Suki Kinari Hydropower project with an installed capacity of 870MW is almost complete and will be operational at the end of this year.

Other CPEC-related hydropower projects include Kohala Hydropower Project and Azad Pattan Hydropower Project. Furthermore, Diamer Bhasha, Neelum Jehlum, Mohmand, and Dasu Dams are also contributing towards Chinese commitment to provide clean and affordable energy in Pakistan.

When renewable energy is talk of the town across the world, Belt & Road Initiative of China is not behind in contributing towards green revolution. On similar lines, CPEC energy investments from China are now focusing on green energy. It won't be an exaggeration if we say that 2023 brought a new era in Sino-Pak cooperation in renewable energy, as we have witnessed extremely encouraging signs in green energy sector between the two friendly nations.

Until now, renewable energy sources make up a very minor fraction of Pakistan's overall power generation mix. According to a recent report of the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority, the installed capacity for wind and solar accounts for roughly 4.2% (1,831 MW) and 1.4% (630 MW) of a total of 43,775 MW, respectively.

China is already the

biggest investor in green energy in Pakistan. Currently, out of the \$144 million in foreign investment in solar PV plants in Pakistan, \$125 million is from China, accounting for nearly 87% of the total.

Thanks to Chinese investments, a few weeks ago Federal Power Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan inaugurated two new wind energy projects in Jhimpir, Thatta District, Sindh, with an aim to produce cheaper and clean electricity through indigenous energy sources. Wind projects in this region have been one of several renewable energy projects to have received Chinese investment in recent years. Around 90 kilometers from Karachi, Jhimpir is the heartland of the country's largest 'Wind corridor', which has the potential to produce 11,000 megawatts (MW) of energy from green resources. Another major development took place in Wind Energy promotion when Beijing-based multinational wind turbine manufacturer, Goldwind Corporation launched the first-of-its-kind solution factory in Pakistan. The Solution Factory aims to develop localized solutions for Pakistani wind power plants. In conclusion, CPEC energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost.

CM reviews arrangements for Independence Day

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, during a meeting held at CM's office on Friday, reviewed arrangements for celebrating Independence Day. Acting upon directives from the caretaker CM, Independence Day festivities are set to be marked with a blend of grandeur and patriotic fervor, as extensive plans have been finalized for Punjab's jubilant observance.

At night on August 13, a vibrant display of fireworks is scheduled to illuminate the skies. Simultaneously, on the morning of August 14, flag-hoisting ceremonies will be held in unison across all divisional and district headquarters throughout Punjab. On the evening of August 14, national songs and anthems will be presented to the public in special events. Renowned singers will perform. All government and private buildings will be lit up across the province.



LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi conferring the Gold medals and presenting certificates to position holders of Secondary School Examination, at local hotel in Provincial Capital.

Nasir Shah inaugurates Sabzwari Triangle Park, Wall of Lyari Gate

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister for Local Government (LG) Syed Nasir Hussain Shah has said that Lyari is the stronghold of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP). He said that under the directives of PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the guidance of Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah, ongoing development projects in Lyari were being completed rapidly.

Nasir Shah said this while inaugurating Sabzwari Triangle Park and the Wall of Lyari Gate along with Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab. On the occasion, former Test cricketer Younis Khan, Hockey Olympian Wasim Feroze, Senator Yusuf Baloch, leader of PPP Nabil Gabol, Javed Naguri, Khalil Hot, Karamullah Waqasi, Chairman Lyari Town Nasir Karim Baloch, Town

National flags will be displayed at prominent places in all cities.

Famous singer Rahat Fateh Ali Khan will perform at the Gaddafi Stadium. Fireworks will be set off at Minar-e-Pakistan and other places. The day will witness a ceremonial flag hoisting at Huzuri Bagh at 8 am, followed by similar observances at landmarks such as Multan Ghanta Ghar. Firework displays and musical performances will grace the night in Multan, where the Metro route will also be illuminated. In the spirit of rejuvenation, the occasion will also see the planting of saplings.

Reflecting the luminance of unity and patriotism, the canals of Lahore and Faisalabad will shimmer with the glow of lit lamps. The CM passionately acknowledged Pakistan's genesis as a product of immense ancestral sacrifices, with a reminder that independence was secured through the crossing of rivers of fire and blood by Muslims.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali along with Chairman Higher Education Commission Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed distributing certificate of electric wheelchairs among the special children/students of the public sector universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Cabinet members return to people with respect, dignity: CM Murad

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presiding over his farewell cabinet meeting at CM House said that he, his cabinet members, and all the MPAs of his party were going back to the people with dignity and respect because they stood by them at a difficult time and served them to the best of their abilities.

The meeting was attended by all the ministers, advisors, special assistants, coordinators, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput, PSCM Fayaz Jatoi, Secretary Finance Hassan Naqvi, and others. He said that at the start of his government tenure in 2018, the federal

government [PTI] was not ready to cooperate and tried to destabilize the PPP government in Sindh. He further said that under the guidance of former President Asif Zardari and PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, he kept serving our people steadfastly.

Murad Shah said that conspiracies from the federal government were still in progress when the fatal pandemic - COVID-19 hit hard. "It created a wave of fear and insecurity among the people," he said and added that his government took concrete steps to face the situation and save the people. He said that the province was still

surviving the COVID losses when the floods of 2022 swept almost across the province. "I had almost lost hope to drain out such a deluge of the water but the cabinet members, party workers, and the leadership supported him and finally the water was disposed of, and wheat crops were sown," he said.

Murad Shah said that they have harvested the bumper crop and achieved more than their requirement and now a record cotton crop is being reaped. "We all - the party leadership, ministers, advisors, special assistants, coordinators, MPAs, and party workers remained shoulder by shoulder with the flood-

affected people," he said and added that the houses destroyed by the floods were being reconstructed along with giving the title of the land to the affected people.

Mr Shah said we were going back to our people with respect, dignity, and a feeling of satisfaction that we served the people.

The chief minister thanked his cabinet members, Chief Secretary Sohail Rajput and former chief secretary Syed Mumtaz Shah for their support and cooperation. He also thanked the secretaries, heads of provincial government institutions, staff of the CM House.

CM extends condolences to family of youth killed in dacoity

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi on Friday met the family of young Ahmed Afsar, who tragically lost his life during a dacoity incident a few days ago at a clinic in Gulzar Quaid, Airport Housing Society, Rawalpindi.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi expressed his grief and sorrow to the widow, uncle, and other relatives of the deceased youth Ahmed Afsar over the tragic incident. He expressed his heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the bereaved family and recited Fatiha for the deceased youth. He consoled the widow and uncle and expressed his compassion towards the children.

The Chief Minister received details about the tragic incident from CPO Rawalpindi. He said that the wrongdoers committed a heinous crime by killing a father of three children. "Punjab Government is with your family, will take complete care of your family," he added.

Bridegroom kills 3 nephews in marriage firing in NW

PESHAWAR (APP): Three young-age boys were killed and two others injured when their uncle fired at them during his marriage ceremony in Chota Dattakhel Barkili area of North Waziristan, the other day.

Police said the accused bridegroom started indiscriminate firing on his nephews during his marriage rituals, killing three of the children and injuring two others. The deceased children were aged from 8 to 14, the police said. The injured children were shifted to Doaba Hospital, Hangu.

Relatives of the accused told police that the mental condition of the accused was not stable. However, he succeeded in fleeing the area after the killing spree.

Meeting on social interaction held

DIR LOWER (APP): A meeting under the provincial government's policy "Interaction with Civil Society", adhering to the directives of Deputy Commissioner Dir Lower Ifthikhar Ahmad, Additional Deputy Commissioner (Relief & Human Rights) Tariq Hussain was held with District Public Prosecutor, Wajid Ali, Child Protection Officer Muhammad Tayyab here on Friday.

The theme of the meeting was "Awareness Raising Campaign Against Trafficking in Persons, Smuggling of Migrants and Child Protection Concerns".



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah presides over a farewell cabinet meeting at CM House.

KP Governor distributes electric wheelchairs among disabled students

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali on Friday said that the guardianship of special children is the responsibility of the entire society.

Addressing as a chief guest at a grand ceremony of distribution of electric wheelchairs among the special children/students of the public sector universities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa here, he said that the provision

of electric wheelchairs will increase the self-esteem of special children. Chairman Higher Education Commission Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Vice Chancellors,

Secretary Higher Education Department Anila Durrani, students and parents participated in the ceremony. The Governor distributed electric wheelchairs among 30 disabled students of 11 universities of the province under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchairs Project.

He said that he salutes those parents who have made their special children complete the journey from first grade to higher education.

He directed the vice chancellors of the universities to waive the fees of special children studying in their educational institutions

and take measures to provide them with jobs.

The Governor distributed electric wheelchairs among 30 disabled students of 11 universities of the province under the Prime Minister's Electric Wheelchairs Project. On this occasion, the Governor praised the academic spirit, courage and dedication of the special students and went to the children and met them and encouraged them.

Addressing the ceremony on the occasion, Chairman HEC Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed said that under the project, electric wheelchairs have been given to 610 disabled children in three phases.

PHC, LAS ink MoU for provision of legal aid to minority communities

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Hindu Council (PHC) and Legal Aid Society (LAS), on Friday, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strengthening access to justice by extending legal support to Hindu and other non-Muslim communities across Sindh.

The MoU was signed by Secretary General PHC Parshotam Ramani and Chief Executive Officer LAS Barrister Hayya Emaan Zahid here at a ceremony in the presence of Chairman PM's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism and Patron-in-Chief of PHC Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani and other representatives of both the organisations.

The signing ceremony was specifically organised on the International Day of

Minorities to highlight the significance and role of minority communities in the development, progress and prosperity of the country while a cake was also cut at the occasion to mark the day. According to the MoU both organisations will work jointly for ensuring access of minority communities to justice in criminal as well as civil matters and safeguarding the rights of marginalised communities across Sindh. As part of the collaboration, PHC will refer cases of the Hindu community to LAS, disseminate Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) material prepared by LAS among its communities.

On the other hand, LAS has pledged its unwavering support.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Qasimabad hold a protest to block Wadhu wah road against bad situation cleaning in their locality.

KP CM stresses on civil servants to work for people's welfare

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister, Muhammad Azam Khan here Friday stressed on public servants to work tirelessly for resolution of people's problems and their welfare.

Addressing the completion of 33rd Senior Management Course (SMC) ceremony as a chief guest here at National Institute of Management (NIM), the caretaker chief minister said that great responsibilities rest on public servants by adopting highest standards of professionalism, management skills and work with utmost dedication imperative for swift resolution of people's problems and welfare of masses.

Congratulating the 34

passed out officers of the SMC, the chief minister said that public servants and officers could not afford leniency in dispensation of official duties.

He directed them to decide cases swiftly on merit and treat general public politely.

He said Pakistan had been created after a lot of sacrifices by our forefathers and the country's problems could be addressed by taking guidance from the teachings of the father of the nation, Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

He said Pakistan could achieve all heights of success if the entire nation strictly acts on the guiding principles of unity, faith and discipline of the great Quaid.



KARACHI: Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chairman PM's Taskforce on Gandhara Tourism and Patron-in-Chief Pakistan Hindu Council, cutting the Cake Independence day celebration after witnessing MOU signing ceremony between the Pakistan Hindu Council & the Legal Aid Society (LAS).

Sindh Info Minister hands over Rs 50m grant cheque to KPC President

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Minister of Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon here on Friday handed over a cheque of Rs 50 million to President Karachi Press Club (KPC) Saeed Sarbazi in the Sindh Assembly as an annual grant from the Sindh Government to KPC.

The provincial Minister of Local Government Sindh Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, Minister for Excise and Taxation Mukesh Kumar Chawla, Member of Sindh Assembly Owais Qadir Shah, Director Information Administration Muhammad Yusuf Kaburu, Director Press Information Hasan Ashgar

Naqvi and former president of KPC Fazil Jamili were also present.

On this occasion, Sharjeel Inam Memon said that the Sindh government had taken historic steps for the welfare of journalists. From the provision of plots for the residence of journalists to financial assistance for their medical treatment, grants have been provided to journalists' organizations and press clubs, he said.

The Sindh government has also excelled in legislation to protect journalists and Sindh Commission for the Protection of Journalists and Media Practitioners has also been established, he added.



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish in a meeting with her district people at Assembly Secretariat.

IGP for merger of small police stations into big police stations

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Friday announced committees for integration of small police stations into bigger ones, turning the small police stations to check posts or reporting centers.

The police officers have also been instructed that the PTI flag should not be seen at any place, media reports.

The crackdown has been started again to arrest the accused of November and March 14 incidents. According to police sources, police has compiled lists of 4082 absconding accused in 1082 Punjab areas of Lahore.

PTCL official shot dead

PESHAWAR (APP): Some unknown militants on Friday killed an official of PTCL in the Mir Ali subdivision police station in the North Waziristan district.

According to Mir Ali police, the PTCL employee was identified as Zarbat Khan, adding that the dead body was shifted to the district hospital. The police have registered a case and started an investigation.

For the other ranges, DIGPs concerned were to head the committees for integration of small police stations.

IGP Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon said the affairs of policing in police stations should not only be improved but also all positive and fruitful measures should be expanded.

He said in order to increase or strengthen the efficiency of the police, we have to expand the administrative and financial affairs.

Merged areas' police end polio duty boycott

PESHAWAR (APP): After a successful round of dialogue between police officers from the settled areas and merged districts, the police in merged areas have assured to end their boycott and join the security duties with the polio teams. Police sources informed on Friday that officers of different ranks from the merged district held a meeting with IGP KP Akhtar Hayat Khan, CCPO, Ashfaq Anwar and others and discussed various issues.

At the meeting, the merged districts informed the KP police chief regarding issues of service structure, appointment of children of the police martyrs in the police force and pension of the former Khassadar Force of the merged districts. The police officers of the merged districts also requested the IGP KP to constitute a committee for forwarding the recommendation regarding appointments of kin of the forces' martyrs.

Not worried on annulment of Review and Judgments act by SC: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Leader of the house in Senate Ishaq Dar has said there is no worry due to Supreme Court (SC) decision regarding annulment of Review and Judgments act.

"PML-N will evolve its political and legal strategy. I have kept myself isolated from ongoing consultation process with reference to care taker Prime Minister (PM). Election Commission (EC) has 90 days with it for holding election after signing the summary by president. The results of new population consensus were accepted unanimously in the meeting of Council of Common Interests (CCI), he said this in an informal chat with the journalists here Friday.

He went on to say it is mentioned anywhere in the constitution that it is mandatory to hold general election before Senate polls.



QUETTA: Pakistan flags, bunting, printed shirts and other items are being selling on roadside stalls in connection of Independence Day of Pakistan coming ahead, at Bacha Khan Chowk.

KS relief ensures food security for Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (Online): King Salman Humanitarian Aid & Relief Centre (KSrelief) is pleased to announce the successful completion of the first phase of our food security project for the year 2023-24 in Pakistan.

In collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), we have distributed a total of 26,400 food packages, weighing (2,508) tons, to flood-affected and deserving individuals residing in 12 districts (Jaffarabad, Usta Muhammad, Sohbatpur, in

Baluchistan, Rajgal, Karak, Banu, Upper Swat in KP, Rajanpur and DG Khan in Punjab, Larkana and Umerkot in Sindh) across Pakistan.

The first phase of this initiative has greatly impacted the lives of 184,800 beneficiaries throughout the country. Each food package, weighing 95 kgs, contains essential provisions including 80kg of flour, 5 liters of cooking oil, 5kg of sugar, and 5kg of Daal Chana, providing sustenance for a family throughout the month.

Free medical camp set up for flood victims in Kharan

QUETTA (APP): A free medical camp was organized for flood victims in Kharan's Madrasa Jamia Farooqia by People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI) Kharan with the support of IRC on Friday.

A total of 292 patients including 42 men, 102 women and 148 were examined in the free medical camp by male and lady medical officers. The examined patients were provided free medicines. Malaria and other diseases were also tested in the free medical camp. On this occasion, a free medical camp was organized by IRC under the supervision of Dr. Ali

Shaukat, Attallah Kactor, Ameer Hamza and District Support Manager of PPHI Kharan, Sohail Islam Baloch. The jointly free medical camp organized by IRC and PPHI was aimed at providing relief to the victims of various epidemic diseases in the areas affected by the recent monsoon rains and flash floods.

Because many households were affected by the floods, various epidemics were feared to spread. In this regard, a free medical camp is being organized for the flood victims so that basic health facilities can be provided to the flood victims at their doorstep.



QUETTA: Dr. Kashif Hashmi along with Dr. Haroon Abid Amin, Jalaluddin Achakzai and others addressing a press conference regarding Hypertension League Conference, at Quetta Press Club.

Sirajul Haq says Decisions taken by PDM, PPP & PTI govts will continue to impact country

LAHORE (INP): Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Sirajul Haq declaring the last five years as the most challenging period in the nation's history, has asserted that the consequences of actions taken by the governments of PDM, PPP, and PTI would continue to impact the country.

Speaking at a press conference in Mansoorah on Friday, he emphasized that the dissolution of assemblies had alleviated the burden on the citizens.

Sirajul Haq expressed optimism in the establishment of a neutral caretaker government that would ensure transparent and fair elections within the constitutional time frame. He warned that if the people's right to choose their repre-

sentatives was denied, Jamaat-e-Islami would resist. He stressed that the judiciary, establishment, and Election Commission should adhere to the constitution and remains politically neutral. The JI, he said while answering a question, would not form alliances with other parties in the upcoming elections.

The JI leader extended his greetings to the non-Muslim community in Pakistan on National Minorities Day, assuring them of their rights' protection when the party comes into power.

Siraj highlighted that economic devastation, inflation, unemployment, corruption, terrorism, and lawlessness had escalated during the tenures of the two Prime Ministers from 2018 to 2023.



QUETTA: Convener of Pakistan Hypertension League (PHL) Conference Professor Dr. Jalal Achakzai presenting memorial shield to Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar during 26th edition of PHL Annual Conference

PM Shehbaz decides to award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz to martyred paramedics during COVID-19

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has decided to award Tamgha-e-Imtiaz (posthumously) to the martyred doctors and health workers who took care of patients without caring for their lives during Corona pandemic.

In a statement on Friday, the Prime Minister paid glowing tributes to the doctors and the front line workers for their services during COVID-19. He said these sons and daughters of the country died from the deadly pandemic while fulfilling their responsibilities.

He said the whole nation will remain indebted to these dutiful doctors and frontline health workers. He said the families of these doctors and frontline health workers are the pride of the nation.

Tamgha-e-Imtiaz posthumously will be conferred upon eighty-one doctors from Punjab, eighty-seven from Sindh, twenty-three from Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa, eight from Balochistan, four from Azad Jammu and Kashmir and one doctor from Gilgit and Islamabad for their hard work and dedication to save people's lives during Corona pandemic.

Fifty-nine nurses and frontline health workers from across Pakistan will also be honored with Tamgha-e-Imtiaz posthumously for saving lives of the people without caring about their lives during the Corona epidemic.

Coast guards seizes huge cache of drugs, arrests one

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Coast Guards (PCG) seized a large quantity of drugs and arrested a suspect from a car at Naka Khari Checkpost, Balochistan.

The PCG team during checking of vehicles at the Naka Khari Checkpost, recovered 129kg fine quality hashish, a 30-bore pistol along with two magazines and 14 rounds from a vehicle, according to a news release issued here on Friday.

The driver of the said vehicle was taken into custody. Further legal proceedings were underway.

GC University Lahore honors Lifetime Achievement Award to former COAS Raheel

LAHORE (Online): A ceremony was held in honor of former Army Chief General Raheel Sharif at his alma mater, Government College University, Lahore. General Raheel Sharif was honored with Lifetime Achievement Award by the university.

On this occasion, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Asghar Zaidi awarded the former Army Chief with an award.

General Raheel Sharif as the 15th Army Chief rendered valuable services to the country, after retirement as Army Chief, General Raheel Sharif became the first military commander of the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism

Coalition of 42 countries. Speaking at the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Syed Asghar Zaidi said that he is very proud to give Lifetime Achievement Award to General Raheel Sharif.

There are some students who raise the prestige of educational institutions. We are all proud of the sacrifices and services of General Raheel Sharif and his family, said Vice Chancellor.

On this occasion, former Army Chief General Raheel Sharif said that being a narrator is no less than an honor. My both the brothers also studied from Government College.



QUETTA: Secretary Finance Zahid Saleem presiding over a meeting of Admin & Finance Committee of Balochistan Education Foundation

Sanjrani, Raja make consultation on care taker set up

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chairman Senate Sadiq Sanjrani reached residence of opposition leader Raja Riaz on the matter of appointment of care taker Prime Minister (PM).

The two made consultation on overall political situation of the country and care taker set up in the meeting.

They exchanged views on the matter of appointment of care taker PM.

Chairman Senate thanked Raja Riaz for nominating him as candidate for care taker PM slot.

National Minority Day observed with traditional fervour of inclusivity, equity

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Minority Day was observed on Friday across the country in general and the federal capital in particular with an aim to highlight their religious and socio-economic rights amid traditional fervour of inclusivity and equity.

Different events and seminars were held across the country to highlight the message of the Father of the Nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, who had pronounced equal rights to all citizens of Pakistan.

On the occasion, the political leadership in the country also appreciated the contribution of religious minorities and vowed on the equality and protection of the rights of minorities.

The Sikh community arranged an event at Gurdwara Panja Sahab at Hassan Abdal to honour the services and sacrifices rendered by religious minorities for the country.

The President in his message said, "On the occasion of this happy day today I am in the process of nation-building. Want to highlight the important role

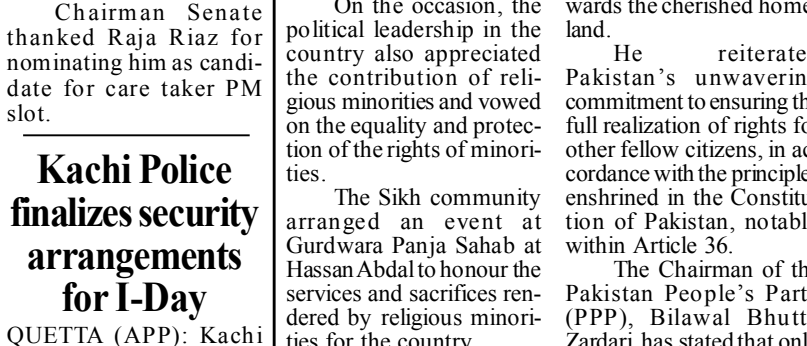
of minorities, we acknowledge and appreciate the role of minorities in the development of the country."

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif highlighted the pivotal role played by non-Muslim Pakistanis in the overall development and progress of the nation.

The National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf extended heartfelt tribute and profound appreciation to all Pakistani Minorities for their exceptional contributions and unwavering dedication towards the cherished homeland.

He reiterated Pakistan's unwavering commitment to ensuring the full realization of rights for other fellow citizens, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan, notably within Article 36.

The Chairman of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has stated that only his party can put an end to the politics of hatred and division in the country and bring social justice to all disadvantaged sections, including minorities.



QUETTA: Provincial Amir Jamaat-e-Islami Maulana Abdul Haq Hashmi leading a protest demonstration in front of Press Club

Kachi Police finalizes security arrangements for I-Day

QUETTA (APP): Kachi Police has finalized the security arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations.

"14th August is a historic day, we got freedom from the British rulers, SSP Kachi district Mir Isa Jan Rind said while talking to the media.

He said that we have got the country after the eternal sacrifices of our elders and we should value our country.

"Strict legal action will be taken against those violators, he said adding that full security will be provided to national gatherings, events and rallies on August 14.

Promote inter-religious harmony, Masood Khan urges faith leaders

WASHINGTON (APP): With hate speech on the rise worldwide, Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, Masood Khan, has called for collective efforts to promote inter-religious harmony when he met faith and community leaders on Thursday.

"It is our collective responsibility to combat intolerance, xenophobia, fanaticism and religious hatred worldwide," he said at the meeting, held at the Pakistani embassy, while reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to promote interfaith harmony.

Representatives of various faiths and members of the Pak-American community attended the meeting, with Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali, Chairman of the Muslim Institute, as the chief guest.

They included, Reverend Canon Justin Murff, Executive Director of the Anglican Office for Government & International Affairs; Muhammad Usman Noori of the Al-Mustafa Trust; Yahya

Hendi, Director of the Muslim Life and Chaplaincy at Georgetown University; Dr. Maqsood Chaudhry, an interfaith activist, Imam Naem Baig, Outreach & Interfaith Director Dar Al-Hijra Islamic Centre.

"Sufism has a great history in Pakistan and it has always worked to connect communities and integrate them as one humanity," the Pakistani envoy told the gathering.

"A cradle of multiple civilizations for centuries, Pakistan's respect for cultural and religious diversity is part of its national psyche and mores.

"We will continue to nurture that time-honored tradition," he added.

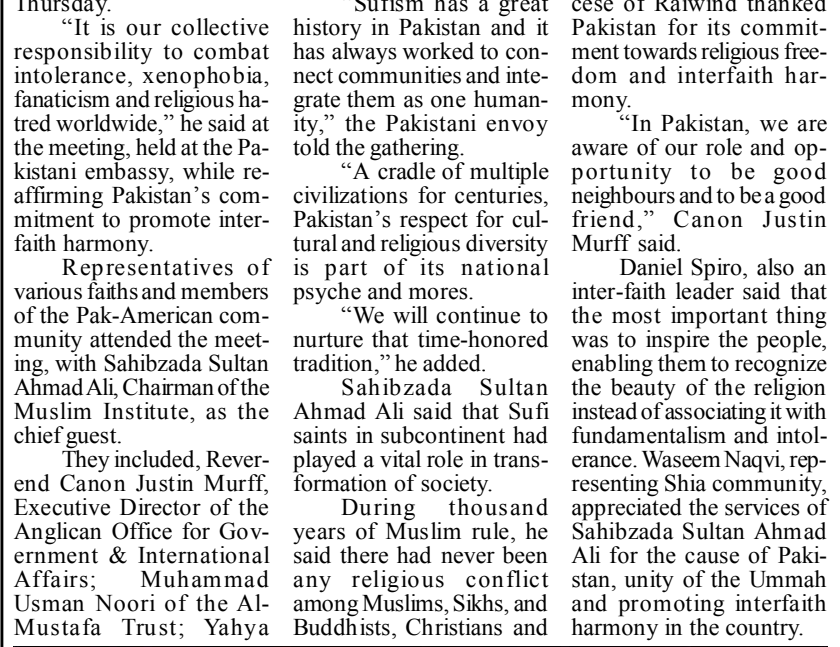
Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali said that Sufi saints in subcontinent had played a vital role in transformation of society.

During thousand years of Muslim rule, he said there had never been any religious conflict among Muslims, Sikhs, and Buddhists, Christians and

Zoroastrians and others. Sufism had also helped protect the society from the scourge of terrorism, citing two major fatwas against suicide attacks and terrorism. Canon Murff, who also represented Archbishop Azad Marshall of the Diocese of Raiwind thanked Pakistan for its commitment towards religious freedom and interfaith harmony.

"In Pakistan, we are aware of our role and opportunity to be good neighbours and to be a good friend," Canon Justin Murff said.

Daniel Spiro, also an inter-faith leader said that the most important thing was to inspire the people, enabling them to recognize the beauty of the religion instead of associating it with fundamentalism and intolerance. Waseem Naqvi, representing Shia community, appreciated the services of Sahibzada Sultan Ahmad Ali for the cause of Pakistan, unity of the Ummah and promoting interfaith harmony in the country.



ISLAMABAD: United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Pakistan, Julien Harnois called on Chairman Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, at Zardari House in Islamabad.



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US, Pak honor 75 years with a commemorative stamp

ISLAMABAD (APP): The U.S. Mission to Pakistan culminated its year-long campaign marking 75 years of relations with Pakistan with a reception to honor Pakistan's issuance of a commemorative stamp.

The event was held at the U.S. Ambassador's residence and included Chief Guest Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan as well as other prominent figures from the Pakistan government, academia, and civil society, said a press release issued here by the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad on Friday.

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome highlighted the long friendship saying, "This stamp, which highlights both country's symbols of freedom, not only marks the first 75 years of friendship but manifests a vision for our future partnership in many arenas of shared purpose.

Karim hails political parties on dissolution of NA as per schedule

QUETTA (APP): Central senior leader of Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) Chaudhry Naeem Karim on Friday said that the leadership of the PML-N was committed to hold general elections after dissolving National Assembly on time.

Because the party considered the people as the source of power and accepting the decision of the people was a form of discrimination, all the political parties deserved congratulations on the completion of the term of the democratic government, he said.

He expressed these views while talking to a delegation of Muslim League-N workers called on him on Friday.

He said that Muslim League-N was a political party that believed in the construction, development, prosperity and service of the country and the nation

saying that Party leader Nawaz Sharif was trusted by people and foreign countries and in difficult times, financial, people support Pakistan in getting out of crises by cooperating.

In this difficult time, the party leaders made difficult decisions by putting their politics at stake and giving priority to the state, he said.

Chaudhry Naeem Karim said that party president Mian Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif fought day and night for the development and prosperity of the country and also increased the country's foreign exchange reserves.

While earlier, due to the incompetence and failed policies of those who raised the voices of thieves, the country and the nation, including the country's economy, continued to reach the point of destruction, he said.



QUETTA: Provincial Secretary Information Hamza Shafiqat and DGPR Kamran Asad giving away orders to employees appointed in DGPR on deceased quota

Without helmets LHC suspends notification on not selling petrol to motorcyclists

LAHORE (Online): Lahore High Court (LHC) has suspended the notification on not selling petrol to the motorcyclists without helmets. The petition against ban on sale of petrol to motorcyclists not wearing helmets came up for hearing before LHC Friday. A single bench of LHC led by Justice Rahil Kamran Sheikh heard the petition.

The petitioner took the plea ban was imposed on petrol pumps through notification for selling petrol to motorcyclists without helmets. LHC remarked how can the ban be imposed on sale of petrol merely through notification.

The court took the stance doing this is negation of basic rights enshrined in constitution.

IHC reserves verdict regarding PTI chief's shifting to Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday reserved its judgment, observing that it would pass an appropriate order in an appeal of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman seeking his shifting from the District Jail Attock to the Central Jail Adiala.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq reserved the verdict after hearing arguments from respondents in the said case. During the course of proceedings, the chief justice remarked that the petitioner was of the view that the trial court had sent him to the Adiala Jail but he was lodged in the Attock Jail.

Assistant Advocate General Punjab Rao Shaukat produced the notification regarding shifting of the convict to the Attock Jail, saying reasons were mentioned about the action.

To the court's query, he said that a lawyer of PTI chairman had already met him on August 7 to take his signatures on the power of attorney and other documents. The court questioned whether a lawyer could meet his client only for his taking signatures on document. Rejecting the requests to visit the prisoner could fall under contempt of court, he added.

Rao Shaukat said the jail administration had permitted the lawyer to visit Imran Khan on August 7, but they reached late on August 8 and 9.

The petitioner's counsel Sher Afzal Marawat argued that the lawyers were being humiliated in the matter of meeting their client.

The chief justice observed that the PTI chief was a former prime minister and leader of a big political party, and at the same time he was convicted.