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Pays rich tribute to Shuhada, Ghazi for their sacrifices Strenuous efforts steer Pakistan out of most difficult times: PM

Says it's our earnest duty to realise martyrs' sacrifices

RAWALPINDI (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that owing to the relentless efforts of the incumbent government, Pakistan had been out of the most difficult times.

Addressing a ceremony at the Army Auditorium, General Headquarters (GHQ), to honour the supreme sacrifices of Shuhada and Ghazis, the prime minister stressed that they all had to strive to rebuild Pakistan collectively.

He said 75 years had passed since the creation of Pakistan which came into being due to hard work by the Great Quaid, the Founder of the Nation, whose vision still remained unfulfilled. The ceremony was attended by Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, officers, ministers and families of

Shuhada and Ghazis. The prime minister said that the incumbent government would complete its term on Wednesday (tomorrow) and after which they would hand over the reign of the government to an interim set-up in accordance with the Constitution.

A comprehensive plan was put in place for the progress and prosperity of the country by the incumbent government, he said, adding the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had given that vision for the progress of Pakistan with the development of agriculture, minerals and IT sectors.

He further said that under that plan, foreign investment worth billions of dollars would be made in the country.

The prime minister termed the ceremony to honour Shuhada and Ghazis

as a dignified occasion to pay tribute to their great sacrifices.

They had made Pakistan more secure with their sacrifices and saved it from the evil designs of the enemies, he added.

He said that they had laid down their lives for the defence of the country by setting unmatched precedents of bravery, valour and sacrifice, adding that the nation had been rendering sacrifices since the creation of Pakistan.

On 14th August, he said, Pakistan would celebrate its 76th anniversary. The nation had to traverse the path carved out by their Shuhada to make Pakistan a prosperous and developed country.

The prime minister underlined that for the elimination of poverty and unemployment, they should rid Pakistan of foreign debts with sincerity, devotion and hard work.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attends a ceremony to honor the Martyrs and Ghazis of Pakistan Army at General Headquarters.

ECP disqualifies PTI chief for five years after Toshakhana verdict

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday disqualified former prime minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief for five years following his conviction in Toshakhana case.

A notification of disqualification has been issued by the electoral watchdog. The ECP also de-notified the PTI chief from the NA-45 Kurram.

An Islamabad court handed a three-year prison sentence and a fine of Rs100,000 to the PTI chief in Toshakhana case. This decision came during the hearing of the criminal complaint filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against the PTI chairman.

The complaint accused

the former prime minister of concealing information regarding gifts received at Toshakhana.

Later, the PTI chairman was arrested by Punjab police from his Zaman Park residence in Lahore on Aug 5. In a notification issued today, the ECP said, "A person shall be disqualified from being elected or chosen as, and from being, a member of the Parliament if he has been, on conviction for any offence involving moral turpitude, sentenced to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years, unless a period of five years has elapsed since his release."

The electoral watchdog declared the PTI chairman disqualified under Article 63(1)(h) of the Constitution read with Section 232 of the Elections Act, 2017.

Addresses condolence reference High time for all of us to sit together and prepare joint course of action to protect our future, says Governor

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stated that the lawyers martyred on August 8, 2016 in civil hospital Quetta were our asset and their invaluable services and sacrifices would always be remembered.

The Governor was addressing a condolence reference organized by Shaheed Baz Muhammad Kakar Foundation at a local hotel here on Tuesday.

The senior lawyers and guests coming from all over the country including Haroon Rasheed, Ahmed Farooq Khatak, Naem Qureshi, Bushra Qamar, Yasin Azad, former Senator, Mrs. Roshan Khurshid Bharucha be-

sides the religious leaders, academicians, representatives of civil society and others.

The Governor said that condolence reference is itself a type of protest.

He said that the basic objective behind observance of the 8th August tragedy is to pay homage to the lawyers who were martyred seven years ago.

He applauded the untiring efforts of Chairman Baz Muhammad Kakar Foundation, Dr. Lal Khan Kakar and his team for organizing the event.

Referring different incidents of terrorism and tragedies, the Governor said that we have to evolve a joint course of action so that no such incidents are occurred again in future. He said that we had

been deprived of several law experts in the incident of terrorism occurred on August 8, 2016 in the civil hospital, which was surely an irreparable loss.

He said that it is high time for all of us to sit together and prepare joint course of action for protection of our future. He said that what he said about the condolence reference was according to his conscious.

Other speakers also addressed the condolence reference and paid homage to the martyr lawyers. They said that the vacuum caused due to martyrdom of lawyers cannot be filled.

In the end, special prayer was offered for the departed lawyers and their bereaved families.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sana Ullah Khan chairing a meeting at FIA Headquarters.

CM approves reforms in Balochistan Civil Service

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has given approval to the Balochistan Civil Service Reforms here on Tuesday.

According to an official hand out issued here, the Chief Minister endorsed the decision of provincial cabinet and recommendations of the parliamentary committee in this regard.

It was mentioned that it is vision of the Chief Minister to enforce improvement in the service quality and good governance in the province.

According to the Chief Minister, the officers of Balochistan Civil Service (BCS) and Balochistan Secretariat Service (BSS) cadre

on the same pattern for ensuring good governance.

Moreover, the Chief Minister also approved to make salaries of the field operation officers equivalent to the civil secretariat.

Similarly, he approved the reforms in the revenue and administrative structure as well as increase in the salaries of revenue staff. The approval was also given to appear in the departmental exam once instead of twice for the Tehsildar cadre, it was also mentioned in the official hand out. The Chief Minister said that all employees and officers are the machinery of state, as such those having the spirit of public service must get chance to come ahead.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf presenting souvenir to Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Nawabzada Shazain Bugti at Parliament House.

NA Speaker bids farewell to parliamentary leaders

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf bid farewell to the parliamentary leaders of various parties present in the House, establishing a new parliamentary tradition. He held individual meetings with parliamentary leaders, including Mr. Shahz Zain Bugti from Jamhoori Watan Party, Mr. Mohsin Dawar from National Democratic Movement, Mr. Muhammad Afzal Dhandla from Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, Mr. Muhammad Islam Bhootani, Mr. Tariq Bashir Cheema from Pakistan Muslim League (Q), Mr. Ghous Bakhsh Khan Mahar from Green Democratic Alliance, and Mr. Ali Nawaz Shah.

Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf presented memorable

shields to all political leaders, acknowledging their commendable and positive roles in the activities of the 15th National Assembly.

Addressing the meetings, Speaker Raja Pervaiz Ashraf expressed gratitude to the parliamentary leaders and their parties for effectively fulfilling their roles during the tenure of the 15th National Assembly.

Speaker National Assembly stated, "I am the spokesperson of the hopes of 240 million people of Pakistan. While abiding by the Constitution, we have fulfilled our democratic responsibilities." "During the past one and a half years, all parties have played a crucial role in the effective functioning of the House, Speaker National Assembly emphasized.

NA to be dissolved today

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly will be dissolved on August 09 Wednesday after Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's address to the farewell session.

The prime minister after addressing the lower house of the parliament will forward a summary to the President Dr Arif Alvi for dissolution of the 15th National Assembly of Pakistan.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif while addressing public rally in Kasur on Sunday had announced that the NA would be dissolved on August 09, just three days before the lower house of the parliament completes its five-year constitutional term.

Incumbent National Assembly's full tenure will end on August 12 and if it completes its stipulated time then elections will be held within 60 days. However, the Constitution states that the polls must be held within 90 days if the assembly is dissolved before the completion of its tenure.

Haroon named ECP spokesperson

ISLAMABAD (APP): Haroon Khan Shinwari, the Additional Director General of Media Coordination and Outreach, of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has been appointed as the spokesperson of the ECP with immediate effect until further orders as per an official notification. Shinwari, a BS20 officer, within the ECP, took over as the spokesperson after Ms. Qurat ul Ain Fatima from the information group was transferred back to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on July 24th.

Seventh census BA adopts condemnation resolution against reducing population of Balochistan

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Balochistan Assembly adopted a resolution condemning reduction in population of the province in seventh census conducted in the country.

The condemnation resolution was tabled by the Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Mir Asadullah Baloch while the session held with Speaker, Mir Jan Muhammad Jamali in the chair here on Tuesday.

While tabling the resolution, the Provincial Minister Agriculture demanded that the federation should accept population of the province in census as 23.5 million. On the resolution, the member of Opposition belonging to PkMAP, Nasrullah Baloch objected that why his name was included in the resolution.

His plea was that we have already rejected the new population census.

Afterwards, Nasrullah Zairay staged token walk out of the house.

Similarly, a condemnation resolution was also approved against the Bajor blast. Tabled by the leader of Opposition, Malik Sikandar Advocate, the resolution demanded exemplary punishment for those involved in the terrorism incident.

The resolution also demanded financial compensation for the heirs of martyrs and injured persons.

Meanwhile, while giving a ruling the speaker directed to take steps for promotion of development officers in the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department.

Later, the session of assembly was adjourned for an indefinite period.

BBISE dispatches 72408 certificates pending for 33 years

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Quetta has delivered 72408 certificates to the successors, pending for 33 years due to incomplete address.

The dispatched certificates include matriculation pending from 1990 to 2014 and intermediate from 1990 to 2019 to the branches of the board, BBISE chairman Mir Ejaz Azeem Baloch told APP on Tuesday.

The students of the said period were informed to collect their certificates from the board branch located in their respective areas, he added.

Chairman BBISE has taken strict notice of the non-delivery of such a large number of credentials to the aspirants. Chairman said negligence in duties would not be tolerated and action should be taken against the involved person.

He said that students should register their addresses correctly to avoid delays in getting credentials.



QUETTA: Speaker Balochistan Assembly Mir Jan Muhammad Khan Jamali in a group photo with MPAs before start of farewell session of Assembly



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar addressing participants of a condolence reference held in memory of lawyers martyred on 8th August, 2016 organized by Shaheed Baz Muhammad Kakar Foundation

Azfar Mahesar transferred; Ateezaz Goraya posted new DIG Quetta

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Deputy Inspector General of Police Quetta, Captain (Retd) Ghulam Azfar Mahesar has been transferred and closed to Central Police Office Quetta.

According to an official notification issued here by the CPO on Tuesday, DIG CTD, Ateezaz Ahmed Goraya has been transferred and posted as the DIG Police Quetta. However, Mr. Goraya would also hold the additional charge of DIG CTD until further orders.

Meanwhile, SSP Sohbat pur, Sajjad Haider Tareen has also been transferred and posted as AIG Police Legal at CPO while Abdul Rauf Baraich, awaiting posting order, has been posted as the acting SP Sohbatpur.

PM announces to set up special fund for journalists who lose lives in line of duty

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has announced establishment of special fund for journalists who lose their lives while performing their professional duties.

RS 4 million will be paid to family members of journalists who die in such an incident.

Prime Minister (PM) has also issued a health card for journalists in history of Pakistan.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of Health Insurance Card, Pa-

kistan code, Digital repository of Federal Essentials app and website for journalists and artists.

Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Maryam Aurangzeb also spoke on this occasion.

Law Minister Senator Azam Nazir Tarar, Federal Secretary for Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan, journalists and leadership of media workers were also present.

PM said that diseases are part of life. I congratulate everyone on issuance of health card.

Zia Langu takes notice Three of a family killed in firing incident

QUETTA (APP): Three persons of a family including a man his wife and a child were killed by unknown armed men in Quetta on Tuesday, police said.

They said that man was going home on his motorbike when unknown armed men opened fire at them within the precincts of Manzoor Shaheed PS, killing all on the spot.

The dead bodies were shifted to the civil hospital, Quetta, for medico-legal formalities. The cause of killing is yet to be ascertained.

Further probe is un-

derway. Meanwhile Balochistan Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs Mir Ziaullah Langu on Tuesday took notice of a firing incident that left three dead in Quetta.

He also expressed his sorrow for the death of a man along with his wife and his small girl.

The Minister ordered concerned officials to take measures to arrest attackers involved in the killing of the three members of a family to bring them to justice.

He also sought the report of the incident.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Rail tragedy

The terrible train accident near Nawabshah that killed over 30 passengers of the Hazara Express and left dozens injured on Sunday was a tragedy waiting to happen. There is always an air of resignation when a train accident occurs in Pakistan.

Each incident is followed by routine announcements of an inquiry and, in the case of major accidents, cash compensation for families who have lost their loved ones or passengers who sustained injuries. The death toll is reduced to mere numbers and the inquiry consigned to the railway junkyard. Train derailments happen frequently on Pakistan's poorly maintained railway lines, especially on the stretch between Khanpur and Karachi. More than 250 people have died and several hundred wounded in major train derailments, collisions and fires in the last 10 years. It is not only the train tracks that are covered in blood; those who have willfully neglected the railways also have blood on their hands.

One can hardly recall the government making any inquiry public or punishing those responsible for these tragedies. The latest tragedy is yet another grim reminder of the multiple challenges the government faces in even maintaining and repairing the country's dilapidated railway infrastructure let alone modernising it and expanding rail services.

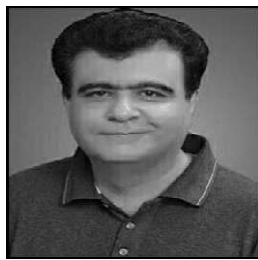
Shortly after the accident, railway and aviation minister Khawaja Saad Rafique said the possibility of sabotage or a mechanical fault could not be ruled out. The "root cause" of the accident would have to be investigated, he added. Some railway officials blamed the derailment of the Rawalpindi-bound Hazara Express on the breakage of the railway line and hot axle issue, which jammed movement.

Yesterday, the minister termed the lack of resources as the "real cause" of the tragedy. In fact, that is the single-most important reason for the current state of the railway infrastructure between Peshawar and Karachi. For example, the railway department had requested Rs30bn in 2021 for the rehabilitation of the 470km-long track between Khanpur and Kotri where the most fatal accidents have occurred in recent years.

However, both the PTI and PDM governments delayed approval, citing it as "unnecessary" due to the planned \$9bn ML-1 project under the CPEC initiative. That shows government does not really care about the life of the rail passengers because the overwhelming majority comes from the lower income groups of the population.

No wonder whenever a railway minister talks about turning railways around, they are concerned about the profitability of its operations rather than the safety of the passengers. The railway department cannot be turned into a profitable entity without investment in its infrastructure to ensure safe travel for its users. The ML-1 project is crucial to modernising the railway system. But the safety of the passengers is paramount, with or without it.

CPEC to SIFC



Dr Niaz Murtaza

A weary nation is being sold a new acronym-based dream about huge progress. It was Seato and Cento in the 1960s, OIC in the 1970s, CPEC in the 2010s and the Strategic Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) now. Similar dreams in the past only resulted in short-term, inequitable and distorted progress.

The common thread across all was the attempt of our rulers to attract politicised lumpy investment via political ties with autocratic patron states like the US, China and those in the Gulf, rather than from a wide range of local and foreign investors, as India and Bangladesh did by becoming economically attractive by implementing reforms. Autocratic states make us dependent on the political agenda of autocratic states, whose shifting moods can stall progress. Local foreign investors would give no single entity control over our destiny and allow us policy freedom.

While CPEC is not dead, it has stalled and is not living up to its dizzying marketing. It is unclear what impetus the new agreement signed on its 10th anniversary gives. But it is telling that China sent only a vice premier for the partying of supposedly the crown jewel of its huge global Belt and Road Initiative. In 10 years, China pumped in \$25 billion but we are much worse off economically now than in 2013, with the PML-N responsible for one and the PTI for two economic crises. The power plants are

expensive and technically dubious; the free-ways have made travel easier but not added economic value to pay off the foreign loans. The economic zones and the Gwadar port are inactive. Why have things stalled? Has China concluded that Pakistan is not the right place to do business in, given our political instability, bureaucracy and elite-dominated economy?

With apparently less Chinese interest, we are now beseeching the Gulf sheikhs for patronage. Can the SIFC result in sustainable and equitable progress? The immediate prognosis looks dim. Firstly, it is a huge demotion to go from China to them. There is the difference in economic size. China's GDP is \$20 trillion; that of the six Gulf states around \$2tr. More critically, China is a highly productive and dynamic state that has grown through creativity and hard work and possesses amazing managerial and technological prowess to share, though its autocratic ways are a concern. The Gulf states are living off natural resources, with no economic dynamism to share beyond investing huge oil money abroad. They will come to us only if they can make much more money than in the competitive West, as we give them all sorts of advantages not available to other actors in our economy. So, instead of being a haven for the fittest, we will be a pillage ground for the fittest.

To predict the fate of the SIFC, one only has to view the intellectual progress and economic dynamism of the three driving forces — Gulf sheikhs, the establishment and Raiwind. Economic dynamism, productivity, creativity and vision are the last things that come to mind about them (the PTI and PPP are no better).

With the three joining forces, we do not get much. With major economic reform to fix unproductivity on hold (let alone restructuring to create a fair economy), this is just another attempt by rulers to postpone reforms and restructuring, maintain an exclusionary, elitist economy that benefits them but still relaxes our binding current account deficit constraint. That constraint periodically forces them into attempting to undertake patchy, dubious reforms under IMF diktat as the economic unproductivity and large money supply increases and fiscal deficits produced by our elitist, rapacious economy frequently deplete our foreign reserves.

The type of projects being championed the most — corporate farming and mining — raise concerns further as globally these sectors are known for economic inequity and environmental destruction. The lack of transparency and involvement of civil society in a democratic way and the powers and role being given to the establishment raise hackles further. This economic strategy is going hand in hand with political autocracy as all players look to increase their political control, silence all opposition and media and crush freedoms.

Thus, Pakistan is entering a new and dangerous phase of economic inequity and political repression, apparently led by the establishment with the help of a new set of political lackeys to replace the PTI. As always in our history, the promised rosy dream may soon turn into a traumatic nightmare and a lived tragic reality soon for a hapless nation. Sadly, one sees little chance of major change in the foreseeable future. -- Courtesy Dawn

Drowning thirsty



Masood Lohar

Among the many paradoxes that this land of the pure has been grappling with, one stands out as particularly strange: Pakistan, despite being blessed with the mighty Indus river and some of the world's largest glaciers, is ranked as the second-most water-stressed country globally. In the year 2022, one-third of the nation was submerged under floodwaters, yet the majority of urban centres, including Karachi, continued to suffer from chronic water shortages. This bewildering situation has created a cycle in which citizens alternately protest against the government for water scarcity or cry out for help with dewatering after urban floods caused by rainfall. The 18th-century Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai poem (in Sindhi) stands true for today's Pakistan; "Only fools remain thirsty while sitting next to water."

Last year, a staggering 33 million people, constituting 15 per cent of the country's total population, were directly affected by the devastating floods. Ironically, an alarming 10m Pakistanis remain without access to clean drinking water while still submerged in the floodwater. Even more alarming is the estimate that by 2025, a mind-boggling 207m people will be facing an "absolute scarcity of water".

With 38pc of Pakistan's population residing in the cities, a figure expected to surpass 50pc by 2050, the per-

petual cycle of water scarcity and urban flooding poses a daunting challenge. It begs the question of why we don't capitalise on the water that naturally comes to our cities and towns. The solution lies in something simple yet effective — wetlands.

Pakistan is an Indus Valley country blessed with several rivers of different capacities. Changing courses thousands of times since its inception, the Indus has left depressions, dhoras, and even oxbow lakes in the plains of Punjab and Sindh. At least 200 depressions are spread out in the Indus delta region from district Badin to Dhabeji. These depressions can absorb almost all floodwaters upstream if the necessary measures are taken. The Punjab rivers also have similar old depressions spread out everywhere, which get recharged during the monsoons. Though real estate madness has occupied most of them, there are still places which can be utilised. For example, right in the middle of Lahore, the Ravi's bed, starting from the Shahdara Reserve Forest to the shrine of Hazrat Gardezi, a 14-kilometre patch covering the 16th-century Kamran Baradari of Emperor Babar's son Kamran, can be a great wetland. With lotus and water lilies, the place can be a tourism goldmine. Similarly, the detached 90-acre portion of the old Obhavo lagoon in Karachi along Mai Kolachi road and the 170-acre black water pond of Boat Basin can be rehabilitated and utilised for floodwater absorption, mangroves and ecotourism.

By dedicating areas to wetlands, we can create natural reservoirs that harvest rainwater, store it and put it to beneficial use for drinking and recreational purposes. Such solutions only make sense when we shift our wealth paradigm from real estate and concrete to nature-based alternative riches.

Taking inspiration from Kolkata, where the East Kolkata Wetland treats over a billion litres of wastewater daily, we can harness the potential of the urban wetlands in Pakistan. These valuable ecosystems play a significant role in managing water resources, reducing flood risks and supporting biodiversity.

During COP13, the Ramsar Convention introduced the Wetland City Accreditation, which recognised 18 cities that have taken exceptional steps to safeguard their urban wetlands. Six of these cities are in China. Four each are in France and Korea. Even underdeveloped co-tries like Sri Lanka and Tunisia are part of this accreditation. The Indus Valley cities and towns like Multan, Sukkur, Larkana and Sehwan, and then the Jhelum and Chenab catchments, and run-off rivers such as the Ravi, Sutlej and Beas can serve as new wetlands for a new ecotourism hub and a biodiversity hotspot right in the middle of cities, including Lahore and Karachi. In a water-scarce city like Karachi, there are multiple places in the Lyari and Malir riverbeds where wetlands can sustain till the next monsoon, yielding biodiversity services. These urban wetlands will create a rich lake ecosystem with native aquatic plants such as water lilies, lotus and Typha elephantina. Utilising the monsoon run-off from India to create and sustain these wetlands will not only address water scarcity but also help in regulating temperatures, fostering tourism and protecting biodiversity. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM invites Saudi govt, firms to avail investment opportunities in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday invited the Saudi government and companies to avail the investment opportunities in agriculture, mining, IT, energy and other sectors of Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with Saudi Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Engineer Waleed Abdulkarim El Khereji who called on him, said the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation

Council (SIFC) would facilitate and fast-track potential investments from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In this regard, he appreciated the Kingdom's serious interest in exploring investment opportunities in Pakistan.

The Saudi vice minister is leading a high-level delegation with members from the ministries of foreign affairs,

energy, environment and health, agriculture, industry and mineral resources, investment etc.

Prime Minister Shehbaz welcomed the delegation and expressed satisfaction on the positive trajectory of bilateral relations with the Kingdom. He also conveyed his greetings for the Saudi leadership and thanked Saudi Arabia for its timely financial support to Pakistan, especially during

the floods and appreciated its role in helping Pakistan in its efforts to achieve macroeconomic stability.

The visit of the Saudi delegation manifests the deep interest and willingness on both sides to transform the longstanding fraternal ties into concrete and mutually rewarding economic partnership. The visit will contribute to further enhancement of multifaceted collaboration between the two countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of Steering Committee to oversee and guide the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports operations at Finance Division.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque witnessing signing of MoU between National Telecommunication Corporation (NTC) and Sunwalk.

PBF demands textile focused policy for economic stability

FAISALABAD (APP): The Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has demanded textile-focused policy on a urgent basis for economic stability of Pakistan.

Addressing a meeting of the forum in APBUMA (All Pakistan Bed-sheet & Upholstery Manufacturers Association) office here, PBF Punjab General Secretary Arif Ehsan Malik said the production cost had pushed the export sector

on the verge of collapse in addition to increasing the unemployment rate which might become a potential threat to overall law and order in the country.

"Therefore, the government must encourage the export sector to drag the economy out of the crisis through phased policies including cutting down the cost of doing business and trimming the interest rate on a top priority basis."

He said the textile sector was the basis of economic stability.

"If the government is really sincere about stabilizing the country economically, it should take urgent steps to increase national exports in addition to reducing the prices of oil, gas and electricity products besides ensuring immediate payment of pending refund claims as economic stability is directly linked with increase in exports.

Meeting held to review progress relating to outsourcing of airports

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Tuesday chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to oversee and guide the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports' operations.

Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation, Chief Executive Officer Public Partnership Authority,

Director General Pakistan Civil Association Authority, International Finance Corporation team and other government officials attended the meeting, said a press release.

The committee was briefed about the latest status of outsourcing of Islamabad Airport transaction for advertisement has been published in all leading local and international newspapers.

PTCL changes its copper network to fiber for high speed internet

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) has completed fiberization of the famous and picturesque tourist destination, Nathiagali to provide high-speed connectivity and quality user experience in the region.

The blazing fast internet will support social empowerment and growth of the local tourism industry, said a news release here on Tuesday.

The network overhaul is being carried out under PTCL's Copper Sunset project, which encompasses the replacement of copper wires with the cutting-edge PTCL Flash Fiber network, which will be the fastest internet in town giving customers blazing speeds of up to 1Gbps with unlimited downloads.

AJK Govt moves to gear up industrial progress in State

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJK) government has principally decided to devise an integrated phased industrial uplift plan with the coordination of the AJK Chamber of Commerce & Industry (AJK-CCI).

The Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the concerned functionaries of the AJK have a plan to encourage and promote local and foreign investment in the trade, industrial and export sectors in the liberated territory.

"The plan also involves the attractive investment in the industrial sector by the UK-based Kashmiri expatriates in AJK besides reviving the sick industrial units in the existing industrial estates in Mirpur division", the official sources told APP here on Tuesday.

The sources continued that one of nine proposed Special Economic Zones, was very much believed to be established in Mirpur district of AJK under the gigantic CPEC (China

Pakistan Economic Corridor) as reportedly sanctioned by the authorities so far.

The sources said that the AJK government was taking all possible steps for the early revival of sick industrial units in Mirpur and Bhimber.

The government has focused to promote the industrial activities in Mirpur and Bhimber districts under the spirit to provide more job opportunities to the unemployed skilled and unskilled persons.

Besides other matters related to the industrial uplift in the region, a high level meeting here today reviewed and discussed in length, with the owners of the Mirpur and Bhimber districts, based sick industrial units, the ideas for quick revival of the units.

The owners of the sick units tabled various proposals in the meeting for the revival to the sick units and assured to resume their functioning soon after their revival in line with the determined policy of the government. Speaking on this

occasion, AJKCCI Mirpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Sabir Hussain Shah said that his chamber has already moved recommendations to the AJK government by devising a strategy for early revival of over 80 sick industrial units located in Mirpur and Bhimber districts and to promote the industrialization process in both the districts as well as in other parts of the liberated territory.

He said that in the light of various proposals the AJK government has assured to encourage and boost the foreign investment in the trade and industrial sector in AJK and colossal funds have already been placed in the ongoing financial year 2017-18 AJK budget. The AJKCCI President said that the AJKCCI MCCI has also moved to the AJK government to provide all possible required facilities and compensation to the intending foreign entrepreneurs including the UK-based Kashmiri expatriates for establishing the industrial concerns in the area.

PPP desirous of timely elections in country: Kundi

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister Faisal Karim Kundi on Tuesday said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) is desirous of timely elections in the country.

Talking to the media here at PID Regional Office, the special assistant said that PPP was willing to conduct elections within 60 to 90 days.

He said all the political parties should participate in the electoral process and respect the people's mandate.

Faisal Karim Kundi, who is also the Central Information Secretary of PPP, said his party was

strongly against the ban on any political party.

He was of the view that victory and defeat were part of politics, however, the fear of defeat does not suit political parties to run away from democratic process and elections.

He vowed to continue his struggle for the development of Dera Ismail Khan, saying, "The PPP has countless services to its credit as far as the development of DI Khan is concerned while it was left bereft of several public serving entities during the PTI regime."

But now, he said, the regional offices of several key organizations such as

PID, Pakistan Television (PTV) and Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) had been restored here with his hectic efforts.

He said that by inaugurating the PID regional office, another promise made to the local journalists has been fulfilled, adding, it was a good omen for the local journalist community.

In this process, he said, Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Maryum Aurangzeb extended her full support.

The special assistant said the caretaker government will hold its responsibilities within a few days.



PARACHINAR: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis & HRD, Sajid Hussain Turi inaugurates Workers Folk Grammar School.

CM visits hospitals, tourist police stations in Bukhara

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi embarked on a visit to the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari in the city of Samarkand, Uzbekistan.

During the visit, he paid his respects at the mausoleum and offered a special prayer, said a handout issued here on Tuesday.

The CM also toured various hospitals and the tourist police station in Bukhara to inspect the facilities.

Upon reaching the mausoleum of Imam Bukhari, the caretaker warmly welcomed Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi and his delegation.

CM Mohsin Naqvi, along with his entourage, offered fatha and prayed

for the country. The delegation further explored the Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex, taking note of its architectural brilliance and intricate details.

Mohsin Naqvi highlighted the collaborative legacy of Imam Bukhari and other Sufis and scholars from Uzbekistan. The artistry exhibited in the Imam Bukhari Memorial Complex was met with admiration by the chief minister who praised the Uzbek architectural style and the intricate tile work.

During his visit to hospitals in Bukhara, the CM assessed the healthcare facilities available for patients and emphasized his dedication to providing exemplary

medical services in Punjab. The delegation also inspected the reception desk, referral system, and other departments in Uzbek hospitals, including child emergency, diagnostics, medical wards, and ICU. The CM engaged in discussions with doctors and medical professionals, acknowledging their dedication to serving humanity. A briefing was provided about the hospital complex, and CM expressed his appreciation for the high-quality healthcare services offered to patients in Uzbek hospitals.

The chief minister also inspected the modern equipment in different departments, including the Cardiac & ICU.

Minister inspects flood arrangements, hospitals

SARGODHA (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Health and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday visited Sargodha district and inspected a mock exercise at Langarwala at the Jhelum River to rescue flood affected.

He said the caretaker Punjab government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, was taking concrete measures to facilitate the people of the province. He said that the next week was very important regarding rains and floods, so all departments needed to be alert. "Heavy rains have been predicted in Punjab from August 11 to 14, due to which there is a fear of urban flooding, and so all



GILGIT: Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Sadia Danish in a meeting with Ex-Deputy Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Assembly Jafarullah Khan at Assembly Secretariat.

UAF inks LoI with HAU China

FAISALABAD (APP): Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director External Linkages Prof. Dr. Muhammad Saqib, Associate Professor Dr. Abid Ali, HAU Director Office of International Exchange and Cooperation Prof. Dr. Ke Tu, Li Xingdao Party Secretary College of Plant Protection and Li Honglian, Dean College of Plant Protection were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan said that it was the ever-first visit of delegation from UAF to HAU China.

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PESHAWAR: Peshawar High Court Acting Chief Justice, Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan inaugurating the Passport Office during a ceremony held at High Court premises in Peshawar.

High-level delegation assesses progress of EWS in Hunza

GILGIT (APP): A delegation on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the ongoing construction of Early Warning System (EWS) base platforms in the vulnerable region of Hunza.

The delegation comprising Zameer Abbas, Secretary Information and IT Department, GB, Kamal Uddin Qamar, Director General of Gilgit-Baltistan Disaster Management Authority (GBDMA), and Abdul Basit, Provincial

Coordinator GLOF-II in GB.

The visit aimed to evaluate the development status of the Early Warning System, which is crucial in strengthening disaster preparedness and risk reduction efforts in the disaster-prone areas of Hunza.

During the inspection, DG GBDMA, Kamal Qamar, reiterated the significance of establishing an effective early warning system to safeguard lives and properties in the region.

37 Corona cases reported in one week: NIH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Tuesday said that 37 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last one week across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.38 percent while five patients were in critical condition. No death was reported from the Coronavirus last week while 9,693 Covid-19 tests were conducted.

Meanwhile, Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel said the government has strengthened the role of Border and Health Services in Pakistan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19. The minister said there was a surveillance system at all entry points of the country including airports. There will be rapid tests and screening of passengers at all airports, he added. He added 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine. "An efficient system with a proper management team is fully functional in the country to remain vigilant and is ready to make an emergency plan.

CJ PHC vows to play role in eradication of corruption

PESHAWAR (APP): The Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court (PHC) Justice Ibrahim Khan on Tuesday vowed to play his imperative role in eradication of the menace of corruption from society.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of passport office at High Court building here, the

CJ said he would not tolerate any injustice to be done with anyone on any basis, adding that he would ensure merit, transparency and justice at any cost.

He assured his round the clock availability for justice to everyone and warned that no corruption of any kind will be tolerated in the Judiciary.

JICA mission visits WASA

FAISALABAD (APP): A two-member delegation of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Headquarter Mission Tokyo has visited Water & Sanitation Agency (WASA) here on Tuesday and reviewed its development projects for their early completion. During a meeting, Managing Director WASA Amir Aziz briefed the delegation about water supply and sewerage.

International News

Putin orders arms factories to produce more Lancet kamikaze drones

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Vladimir Putin, the Russian president, has ordered the head of a state-owned defence conglomerate to increase the production of attack drones, as the drone war in Ukraine ramps up.

In televised footage of the meeting on Monday night, the Russian president was told by the head of Rostec, which produces around 90 per cent of Russia's military equipment, to increase the number of kamikaze drones being chummed out.

Putin said Russia needed more Kub and Lancet drones, which have be-

come a thorn in the side of Ukraine's advancing forces, saying they had proven "very effective".

"It is necessary to increase the percentage of the production of the latest types of weapons," T-90 "Proryv" tanks, and aircraft systems," the Russian president said. Russian state media said, last month, the Lancet drone was going into mass-production, with Rossviya-1 television reporting that production would be tripled in the coming months. Ukrainian military officers have described the drones as being among their biggest threats on the

battlefield as Moscow's kamikaze drones are difficult to defend against.

The drones fly low and slow to avoid traditional air defence systems and can be piloted directly by operators on the ground, unlike the Iranian-shahed drones which are pre-programmed to head to a target that cannot be changed once launched. Analysts have suggested that Russia's defence ministry is keen to get hold of more of the Lancet drones, which reportedly cost around £28,000 each, as a low cost way of making up for losses of their more expensive and sophisticated equipment.



Vacharaesorn Vivacharawongse, 42, the second-eldest son of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn speaks to well-wishers at the Foundation for Slum Child Care supported by the Royal Family, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Russian strikes on east Ukraine residential building kill at least 7

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Rescue workers combed through the rubble of damaged buildings in the city of Pokrovsk in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday, the day after Russian strikes killed at least seven people.

Pokrovsk sits just 50 kilometres from the eastern front line, where Moscow says it is gaining ground and repelling Ukrainian attacks.

Two missiles — launched 40 minutes apart — damaged residential buildings, a hotel, catering establishments, shops and administrative buildings on

Monday, Pavlo Kyrylenko, head of the Donetsk region's military administration said.

AFP correspondents on the ground saw rescuers evacuating survivors from the rubble of a five-storey building, and carrying the wounded into ambulances.

Seven people died and 67 were wounded, including two children, according to Igor Klymenko, Ukraine's minister of internal affairs.

Those killed included a high-ranking emergency

official of the Donetsk region, Klymenko said.

"We are resuming the demolition of rubble," he said on early Tuesday after the rescuers "were forced to suspend work for the night due to the high threat of repeated shelling".

President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Monday that Moscow had struck a residential building, and shared a video on social media of civilians helping wounded people and rescuers clearing rubble from a building that had lost its top floor.

India bars makers of military drones from using Chinese parts

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India in recent months has barred domestic manufacturers of military drones from using components made in China over concerns about security vulnerabilities, according to four defence and industry officials and documents reviewed by Reuters.

The measure comes amid tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours and as New Delhi pursues

a military modernisation that envisages greater use of unmanned quadcopters, long-endurance systems and other autonomous platforms.

But as the nascent Indian industry looks to meet the military's needs, the defence and industry figures said India's security leaders were worried that intelligence-gathering could be compromised by Chinese-made parts in drones'

Second son of Thailand's king makes surprise return after 27 years

Monitoring Desk BANGKOK: The second-eldest son of Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn visited a child-care centre for underprivileged families on Tuesday during a surprise visit to the kingdom, the first time he has been back in his homeland in 27 years. The trip by Vacharaesorn Vivacharawongse, 42, comes at a fraught time for the Thai royal family.

Indian parliament debates no-confidence motion in Modi government

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India's parliament debated a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government on Tuesday, a day after opposition leader Rahul Gandhi returned to the house.

The opposition Congress party launched the debate in a bid to force comment from Modi on months of deadly ethnic conflict in northeastern Manipur state, with a vote potentially to be held on Thursday.

Government minister Kiren Rijiju said the motion had "been brought at an extremely bad time and Congress would regret it later".

Modi's Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata

Party (BJP) won 303 seats in the 543-member lower house in the 2019 election and is expected to comfortably defeat the no-confidence vote, which it has dismissed as a headline-grabbing gimmick.

Gandhi, the scion of India's premier political dynasty, was restored to parliament on Monday after the Supreme Court last week suspended his defamation conviction over comments criticising Modi.

The 53-year-old Gandhi was sentenced to two years imprisonment in March in a case that critics flagged as an effort to stifle political opposition in the world's largest democracy.



An abortion rights protester holds a sign that says "OHIO KEEP ABORTION SAFE & LEGAL!" at a rally in Columbus, Ohio.

Tropical storm hits Japan's Okinawa islands again, unleashing torrential rain

Monitoring Desk TOKYO: A meandering storm was headed again toward southwestern Japan on Sunday, prompting fresh warnings about dangerously heavy rainfall after the same area was hit several days ago.

Tropical Storm Khanun, which means jackfruit in Thai, was returning to the southernmost group of islands of Okinawa moving slowly northward, packing winds of up to 30 meters per second (67 miles per hour) and hovering over Okinawa through Monday, according to the Japan Me-

teorological Agency.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki warned residents to brace for torrential rains and mudslides. "This could mean that the dangers about to hit the area where you are living are unusual and on a scale you have never experienced," he said of the storm. He asked people to prepare escape routes to safety in advance. "Do not let your guard down," he said. Large parts of Okinawa, including the main city of Naha, was being slammed by extremely heavy rainfall, according to weather reports.



Rescuers work at a site of a building destroyed during a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Pokrovsk, Donetsk region, Ukraine.

PM announces to auction all Toshakhana gifts to support orphan children

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday announced to auction all of the gifts worth millions of rupees at Toshakhana and the revenue would be spent for the welfare of orphan children. "I announce to auction all of the gifts worth millions of rupees at Toshakhana. But whole of the receipts will go nowhere else but the institutions of the orphan children whether they are welfare organizations, educational institutions or medical facilities. We will hand them over under a mechanism to support the orphans who are unable to face the challenges of life," the prime

minister said talking to a delegation of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), and Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA). The prime minister said that he felt honoured to announce the auction of Toshakhana gifts before the representatives of APNS, CPNE and PBA.

He told the media industry representatives that the incumbent government inherited very tough economic conditions but the coalition parties did not imagine the severity of the situation.

The prime minister said the previous govern-

ment wasted last four years in mere victimisation of political opponents and also strained ties with friendly countries.

He said his government had tried its utmost to rectify the relations with friendly countries and had been able to control the damage to a great extent which also led to the signing of the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The prime minister repeatedly called for the nation, particularly the youth, to forge unity and work hard to rid the country of loans and make it a great nation.

He said the incumbent

government victimised no political opponent and that they were extremely busy to tackle the challenges of flood, inflation, economy, IMF, wheat import and foreign policy issues.

He said the media had a crucial role to play for the national unity and reduce the temperature as during the last four years, the previous government "poisoned" the society and the rectification was not that easy. He said with the IMF agreement, the country was saved from default and otherwise the situation could have been extremely difficult with long queues at filling stations and people taken to streets.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a group photo with a delegation of Pakistan Broadcasters' Association, All Pakistan Newspapers Society & Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a group photo with the delegation of the students and faculty members of the University of Makran, Panjgur Balochistan at Parliament House.

BA passes 96 legislation in five year tenure

QUETTA (APP): Balochistan Assembly has passed 96 legislation on various important provincial issues in its five years tenure since the provincial government came into power in 2018.

The 11th Assembly has passed and amended 11 acts in its first parliamentary year started on August 13, 2018 including The Balochistan Government Employees Benevolent Fund Act, The University of Gwadar Act, The Balochistan Finance Act, The Balochistan Essential Education Service Act and many others. The Assembly has passed important

and efficient laws in the health sector including Balochistan Mental Health Act 2019, Balochistan Healthcare Commission Act. The provincial assembly had also approved a Bill for establishing a university in Gwadar on priority and passed The Balochistan Universities Act on April 19, 2022 to create maximum opportunities for students to get higher education.

Highlighting the provincial Assembly progress, Minister Muhammad Khan Lehri said that the government had enforced many laws and worked hard to ensure the protection of the public interest. The coalition

government led by Balochistan Awami Party had been taken all measures for the wider interest of the province, he added.

The protection of resources of Balochistan and the rights of its people was top priority of the government for which a large number of new laws were enacted besides amending different existing laws, he added. Legislation was the primary responsibility of the assembly and it has been continued to fulfill its responsibility as well as, it added. He was of the view that it was top priority to bring improvements in the health sector.

Two more suspected Congo virus patients brought to FJCHQ

QUETTA (APP): Two more suspected Congo virus patients have been admitted to Fatima Jinnah Chest Hospital Quetta FJCHQ as the number of positive cases reported this year is 25.

As per hospital sources, the condition of one of the patients brought to the hospital is critical.

According to the administration of FJCHQ, Akhtar Muhammad, 20 resident of Ziarat district was shifted to the hospital last night in a critical condition due to the complaint

of bleeding from the nose and mouth.

Separately, an eight-year-old Muhammad Saleem from Chaman district was also admitted to the hospital last night.

The blood samples of the patients brought to the hospital suspected of Congo virus have been sent for laboratory tests, the sources said.

They noted that as many as 25 cases of Congo virus have been reported so far this year, in which 9 patients have died.



QUETTA: Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi and Secretary Law Abdul Saboor Kakar photographed with officers during appreciation certificate distribution ceremony

Mariyum says: Historic day as PM's health card scheme for media workers launched

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb said on Tuesday that today was a historic day as for the first time, a health card facility was being launched for journalists, media workers and artists on the instructions of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. Addressing the launching ceremony of "Prime Minister's National Health Program 2023 for journalists, media workers, artists and technical resources" here she said that it was the vision of Shehbaz Sharif as the opposition leader to set up a health insurance scheme for journalists and media workers.

Last week she said, the PM had witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Pakistan State Life Insurance Corporation and today the scheme was formally launched.

She also congratulated Prime Minister Shehbaz

Sharif for the implementation of his vision. She said that the other historic step being taken today launching of an app by the Ministry of Law and Justice which had digitalised all federal laws. The minister thanked Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan and Principal Information Officer Mubashar Hassan for their contribution to the launch of the health card scheme.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif distributed health cards among the journalists and artists on the occasion. The first health card was given to President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists Afzal Butt, President PFUJ, Haji Nawaz Raza. Besides, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazir Tarar, Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan.

Principal Information Officer Mubashar Hassan and senior officials from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Govt evolves plan to collect add. Rs 721b from electricity consumers

ISLAMABAD (Online): Under IMF condition, government has worked out planning to charge additional Rs 721 billion to electricity consumers during current fiscal year.

Sources said electricity tariff will be inflated by Rs 1.25 per unit till September under the head of quarterly adjustment. This way government will collect additional Rs 39 billion from consumers against quarterly adjustment for the month of September.

IHC directs police to recover Durrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed the police to recover Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Ifthikhar Durrani within four days.

Chief Justice Aamir Khan Marwat said the case pertaining to the recovery of PTI's leader Ifthikhar Durrani. Petitioner's lawyer expressed confidence in Superintendent Police (SP) CIA Investigation Rukhsar Mehdi before the bench.

Advocate Sher Afzal Khan Marwat said that Rukhsar Mehdi is an officer of the Islamabad Police with a good reputation.

MoS Khar, Saudi minister discuss regional, global issues

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar and Saudi Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Eng. Waleed Abdulkarim El Khreji on Tuesday discussed the regional and global issues of mutual interest.

The Saudi vice minister is leading a high-level and representative delegation with members from the Saudi Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Energy, Health, Environment and Agriculture, Industry and Mineral Resources, Investment etc. Foreign Office Spokesperson said in a press release.

During the meeting, MoS Hina Khar expressed satisfaction with the positive trajectory of bilateral relations.

President stresses youth to benefit from technology advancement

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has stressed the youth to benefit from the technology advancement and offer their services globally to increase technology exports of the country.

"We have a youth bulge in our country and that youth bulge must be linked intellectually with the rest of the world. If it is not done, we will miss a great opportunity available to our country," President Alvi said in his video message to a virtual inauguration of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants (ICMA) Digital Academy.

ICMA launched the Digital Academy in partnership with the London-

based The FinTech Group (TFG). According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, ICMA Digital Academy is incorporated in the UK with a mission to develop job-ready workforce of the future in Pakistan with globally in-demand digital skills.

President of Pakistan Dr. Arif Alvi highlighted the importance of the ICMA Digital Academy's plans to help the youth bulge in the country offer their services globally. He reminded the audience that young adults are very keen on learning new technologies and on interacting with global customers in a professional manner. President Alvi described the strategic shift taking place around us in

terms of the new jobs of the future and the way many of these services will be rendered in future. Pointing to the increased acceptability of remote work in many of the jobs of the future, the President indicated that this provides a tremendous opportunity to the talented young adults of Pakistan to interact virtually with the users of their services without any geographical limitations. This takes away the need for any visas or immigration to new countries as a pre-condition for offering services globally.

The President reminded the country about the speed of change taking place around the world and the need for Pakistan to get on the train faster.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar presiding over 7th meeting of Senate of University of Turbat

BPSC announces to hold PCS exam of ACs, SOs & DSPs in November 2023

QUETTA: The Balochistan Public Service Commission (BPSC) has announced to conduct the provincial civil service (PCS) examinations of Assistant Commissioners, Section Officers and Deputy Superintendents of Police in November this year.

According to an official hand out issued here on Tuesday, the BPSC has made decision to extend the date of PCS examinations on directives of the Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo.

The aspirants of the PCS examinations had requested to extend its schedule, thus the Chief Minister urged the BPSC to extend the schedule of provincial competition examination in the larger interest

of the candidates. With extension in date of the PCS examination, the candidates appearing in the CSS special examination would also have chance to appear in the PCS examinations.

It was the demand of aspirants of CSS special examination to conduct the PCS examination after the CSS special competitive examination. On this, the Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Imran Gichki had contacted the Chairman BPSC, Abdul Salik Khan. During the detailed conversation, it was decided to conduct the PCS examination after the CSS special examination.

Meanwhile, the candidates appearing in CSS special examination hailed the decision.



QUETTA: Inspector General of Police Balochistan Abdul Khaliq Sheikh offering Fateha for policemen martyred in Nawab Killi & Spinny road incidents

ANP Balochistan organizes peace seminar in memory of 8th August martyrs

QUETTA: A peace seminar was organized by the Awami National Party (ANP) Balochistan here at a local hall on Tuesday.

The seminar organized to mark the death anniversary of martyrs of 8th August 2016 was well attended by political leaders and workers besides the provincial leadership of ANP.

Prominent among them were the parliamentary leader and provincial president of ANP, Asghar Khan Achakzai, Provincial Minister for Finance, Engineer Zamarak Khan Achakzai, member provincial assembly, Qadir Ali Nayal, leader of National Party, Dr. Ishaq Baloch, Khushal Khan Kakar and others.

The leaders of political parties paid homage to the martyrs of August 8

tragedy. They said that it was the most tragic day of the history when a lot of senior and talented lawyers had lost lives in the tragic incident seven years back.

They said that the tragedy occurred seven years ago is still fresh in their hearts and minds, and it can never be forgotten.

They stressed the need to take effective steps for establishing peace by all segments of the society and political leadership in the province and country.

They said that all parties and intelligentsia would have to play their role for peace in the province and so other parts of the country.

It is need of the hour to join hands to foil the nefarious designs of the enemies, adding they stressed.

Later, fateha was offered for the departed souls of the martyrs.

PN personnel conferred upon military awards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Military awards were conferred on naval personnel here at the Pakistan Navy Investiture Ceremony 2023 on Tuesday.

Chief of Staff (COS) Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf was the chief guest at the ceremony, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

Commodore Syed Naved Ahsan and Commodore Amir Hanif received Sitara-i-Imtiaz (Military), while Captain Dr Amjad Nawaz, Commander Rizwan Ahmad, Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Imran, Lieutenant Commander Faisal Ayub and Lieutenant Commander Syed Muhammad Hasan Rizvi were the recipients of Tamgha-i-Imtiaz (Military).

Two awards of TK(M)-II and nine awards of TK(M)-III were also conferred upon CPOs and sailors of Pakistan Navy whereas letters of commendation from the Chief of the Naval Staff were awarded to 17 officers, CPOs/sailors and Navy civilians.

PTI responsible to away youth from politics: Kaira

ISLAMABAD (APP): Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan, Qamar Zaman Kaira Tuesday said the youth of the country becoming get away from politics the reason why Pakistan Tehreek Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan misguiding youth by showing indulging them in their dreams.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that the habits of institutions and departments would slow steady become right it was not possible to settle things abruptly adding that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and all other political parties need to stand united on 'Charter of Democracy'.

Replying to a question, he said that delaying elections would not be favorable for the country's stability and PML-N was also not in favor to delay the process at any cost.

"The caretaker setup has a huge responsibility to run a country in an appropriate manner," he added.

Governor Balochistan says Tough economic conditions need us to prepare comprehensive strategy

QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that the tough economic conditions of the country and province are requiring us to prepare comprehensive strategy for achieving new priorities and targets in this regard.

Therefore, it is necessary to refrain from unnecessary expenditures and opening the departments, which are unmatched with the contemporary market at the level of universities.

The Governor stated so while presiding over 7th Senate meeting of the University of Turbat here on Tuesday.

Also present in the

meeting were the senior Judge of Balochistan High Court, Mr. Justice Hashim Khan Kakar, Provincial Secretary Education, Lal Jan Jaffar, Vice Chancellor, University of Turbat, Professor Dr. Jan Muhammad Baloch, Principal Secretary to Governor, Hashim Khan Gilzai, representative of the Higher Education Commission, Engineer Ahmed Farooq Bazzi, Deputy Secretary Finance, Abdul Samad.

Addressing the meeting, the Governor said that the universities are established to impart higher education to the students, so we should focus on provision of necessary facilities to them.

Saad Rafique says Jammed locomotive wheels, damage piece of track main reasons for train accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique while strongly refuting news item appeared in section of press and social media on Monday said two jammed wheels of locomotive and damage piece of railway track were main reasons for the railway tragic accident near Nawabshah.

Speaking at the National Assembly here, the minister said regretted that

fake news was being circulated on both social media and some television networks. No word was used in joints rather Parmelia fishplate was being used for railway signal system worldwide as the signal system did not work without it, he said. He explained that it was a special type of fishplate which was imported from Germany or Holland. Investigation into the accident was underway.



RAWALPINDI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif interacting with families of Martyrs during his visit of General.

BISP to start Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers in Sindh, Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) has planned to launch the facility of Mobile Registration Vehicle Centers in various districts of Sindh and Balochistan to facilitate the registration process for intending beneficiaries in remote areas of the country.

The first ever such facility has been inaugurated in Karachi recently by the Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri.

According to an official source, the mobile registration vehicle centres are being started in 25 districts of Sindh and Balochistan including Gothki, Umarkot, Tharparkar, Sanghar and Jamshoro districts of Sindh province while Chagai, Khuzdar, Kech, Awaran, Lasbela, Sibi, Loralai and Qila Saifullah initially which can be extended to the other areas.

The initiative of the

Mobile Registration Vehicle Center has been started with the support of the German Government, GIZ and the Sindh Government.

These centres will enable the beneficiaries in far-flung areas to access the registration facilities through mobile vehicles which have been purchased with the support of the German government and GIZ. Highlighting the one-year performance of BISP, the source revealed that the quarterly stipend of Benazir Kafalat has been increased up to Rs 8750 per family which is given every quarter while the number of beneficiaries of the Benazir Income Support Programme has increased from 7.6 million families to 9 million during the last one year. The BISP staff ensured the distribution of relief money to the deserving ones in the worst conditions during the floods and 70 billion rupees.



QUETTA: Woman selecting and purchasing national flag printed children dress on ahead of start 76 Independence Day celebration of 14 August.