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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.

National Assembly set to dissolve 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.

Meanwhile Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Raja Riaz has said that he will call on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif today (Wednesday) to hold a consultation on the name of the caretaker prime minister.

The incumbent government is completing its constitutional term in a few days and PM Shehbaz Sharif had already announced that he would send advice to the president for the dissolution of the National Assembly on August 9.

Under the Constitution, the prime minister and opposition leader are required to hold consultations on the names of the caretaker prime minister.

When asked if he has proposed the names for the

interim prime minister to the PM, Riaz said he has not met the premier yet.

Riaz is Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) dissident parliamentarian and became the opposition leader with the support of other rebel MNAs after the former ruling party resigned en masse in April last year.

Responding to another question that the name for interim PM had already been finalised by ruling PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif, the opposition leader responded: "Say whatever you want, I have my own opinion."

He went on to say that he had completed deliberations with his allies on the name of the caretaker PM and he is scheduled to meet the prime minister tomorrow (Wednesday).

"My three names are 90% finalised," he said without elaborating further.



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

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.

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 positive trajectory of bilateral relations.

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.

Saad Rafique says

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): Railways 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 wood 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, and its final report would come in next few days, he said.

However, as per the initial report, out of 12 total wheels of locomotive were jammed when the train started its journey from Karachi which should have been removed. Besides, a piece of railway track near the accident site was also damaged, which led to the accident.



SUKKUR: The settlement agreement of Jinnah Post Graduate Medical College (JPMC) and Sindh Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (SICVD) signed the MoU between Pakistan and Sindh Government. Chairman Pakistan People's Party and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Federal Minister Syed Khurshid Shah, Federal Minister for National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination Abdul Qadir Patel, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah, Health Minister Sindh Ezra Pechuho and others parents also.

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.

Cost of electricity will be scaled up by Rs 4.37 per unit from September to December under fuel adjustment head and this way government will recover additional Rs 122 from the consumers. Rs 560 billion will be charged to consumers through electricity bills by raising cost of electricity Rs 5.75 per unit under the head of rebasing of power tariff.

The additional amount will be utilized to mitigate circular debt of power sector. Finance ministry sources said circular debt of power sector will be restricted to Rs 2130 billion by the end of current year. Circular debt of power sector had reached Rs 2700 billion till June 2023.

Pakistan desires strong, successful Southeast Asia: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that Pakistan desired a strong and successful Southeast Asia, which was critical for the stability and development of the entire continent.

"The more connected and united we are, the more able we would be in overcoming our collective challenges and prospering together as a region," the foreign minister said in a message on 56th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Day.

Extending congratulations to the ASEAN members on behalf of the people and government of Pakistan, he said Pakistan shared ASEAN's vision of amity and cooperation with countries in Asia-Pacific.

"We believe that an integrated Asia promises a prosperous future for all. Pakistan has, therefore, endeavoured to develop partnerships all across Asia particularly with ASEAN countries," a press release quoted the foreign minister as saying.

Bilawal said ASEAN was born on 8 August 1967 as a unique platform for regional cooperation in Southeast Asia.

IHC directs police to recover Durrani

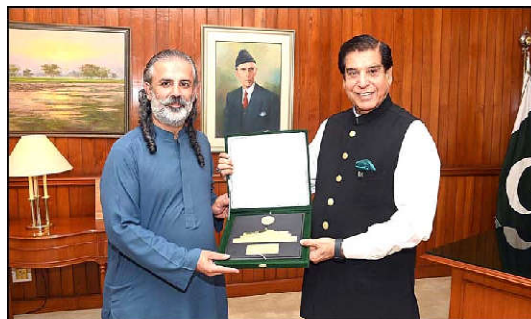
ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday directed the police to recover a Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Iftikhar Durrani within four days.

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

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

Islamabad Police's counsel Tahir Kazem appeared in court and said that the case has been registered regarding the missing PTI leader, clarifying that Durrani is not in police custody.

The court granted four days' time to the police for the recovery of the missing citizen and adjourned further hearing of the case till the next date.



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

'National Growth Center' to augment economic prosperity: Ashan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ashan Iqbal on Tuesday launched the National Growth Center (NGC) aimed at putting the country on a steady path of economic development, innovation and prosperity. Addressing the launching ceremony here, he highlighted the importance of fostering an environment of sustainable development, creating jobs, empowering communities, and stimulating economic diversification. "Our goal is nothing short of positioning Pakistan as a hub of innovation and progress on the global stage."

The main NGC center would be based at the Planning Ministry while such facilities would be operating in various universities of the country. He said the NGC was not merely a physical space but a symbol of commitment to the future, a testament to an unwavering belief in the potential of people and national resources.

"We envision these growth centers as catalysts for holistic growth where industry, academia, and government collaborate seamlessly, groundbreaking research meets practical application, and local communities flourish alongside the national economic expansion."



ISLAMABAD: Recognizing the contribution of unsung heroes in the development of Pakistan, the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives awarded Development Leadership Award to the 75 people and 60,000 interns to young graduates through the Prime Minister's Bakhshiyar Naujawan Internship Program (BNIP) during ceremony at Pakistan-China Centre.

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.

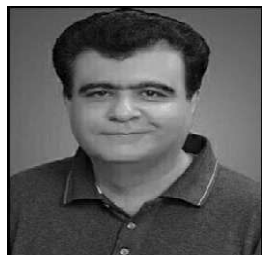
One can hardly recall the government making any inquiry public or punishing those responsible for these tragedies. The latest tragedy is yet another grim reminder of the multiple challenges the government faces in even maintaining and repairing the country's dilapidated railway infrastructure let alone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



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

CPEC to SIFC

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 prowess and economic dynamism of the three driving forces — Gulf sheikhs, the establishment and Rawind. 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 Dhabaji. 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 Obhaya 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 ElKhereji 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,

health, environment and 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 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 Muhammad 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 job 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.

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 Pakistani & 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 fatiha 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 and 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.

FAISALABAD (APP): Henan Agricultural University (HAU) China and University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF) have inked Letter of Intent (LoI) to collaborate in the area of academic and research.

UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan and HAU President Prof. Dr. Jie Xiaolei signed the LoI on behalf of their institutions while Chairman Department of Entomology UAF Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jalal Arif, Director Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization Prof.



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

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 Rossiya-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-shaped 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 frontline, 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 Kyrlyenko, 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.

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.

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.

The monthlong conflict in Sudan has displaced over 4 million people, a UN official says

Monitoring Desk
CAIRO: Sudan's escalating conflict has driven more than 4 million people from their homes, including over 884,000 who have fled to neighboring countries, a U.N. official said Tuesday.

The fighting has also triggered outbreaks of disease and an increase in malnutrition, according to William Spindler, a spokesperson for the U.N. refugee agency. From mid-May to mid-July, the UNHCR recorded over 300 deaths from measles and malnutrition, mainly among children under 5, Spindler said, speaking to reporters in Geneva.

His remarks came as clashes between the Sudanese army and its rival paramilitary force intensify in the eastern part of the capital, Khartoum, and the nearby city of Omdurman.

Sudan was plunged into chaos in April when simmering tensions between the military, led by Abdel Fattah Burhan, and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces.

Two more US warships enter Red Sea

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: More than 3,000 United States military personnel have arrived in the Red Sea aboard two warships as part of a "beefed up response" from Washington after tanker seizures by Iran, the US Navy said on Monday.

The deployment adds to a growing US military build-up in tense Gulf waterways vital to the global oil trade and led Tehran on Monday to accuse the US of "inflammatory regional instability".

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 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, Panigur Balochistan at Parliament House.

Ambassador Masood lauds APAG for renaming NY's street as "Allama Iqbal Avenue"

WASHINGTON (INP): Ambassador Masood Khan has congratulated President American Pakistani Advocacy Group (APAG) Ali Rashid for his leadership in having one of the avenues co-named as 'Allama Iqbal Avenue' in New York. Allama Mohammad Iqbal is an international icon and a symbol of Pakistani nationhood.

It was Allama Iqbal who dreamed of a separate homeland for the Muslims of Sub-continent. The dream came true in 1947. New York is the most famous metropolis and naming an avenue after our national poet would cement Pak-US ties and a source of pride for Pakistani diaspora not only in NYC but across the United States.

paid tribute to Ali Rashid for his resolute efforts to build better relations between Pakistan and the United States and creating greater awareness about the history and culture of Pakistan in the United States. It may be recalled that Ali Rashid and APAG was instrumental in introducing a resolution in the US House of Representatives to designate March 23, 2023, as "Pakistan Day."

Co-naming 109 Street and 101 Avenue in Richmond Hill, Queens, New York, recognizes Pakistan's rich cultural heritage whilst allowing Pakistani American to honor one of the most significant leaders of their country. Speaking on the occasion Adrienne Adams, Speaker of the New York City Council said,

"As we approach Pakistan Independence Day, I am honored to celebrate the co-naming of 109th Street and 101st Avenue as Allama Iqbal Avenue."

"Hailed as one of the defining poets, scholars, and leaders of his time, Allama Iqbal's work and vision led to the creation of Pakistan as an independent country. His legacy lives on today in the vibrant Pakistani community that has contributed to cultural fabric of New York City. I am proud to work alongside the American Pakistani Advocacy Group, which has devoted its efforts to supporting and uplifting our neighbors, to formally recognize Allama Iqbal and the Pakistani community's contributions to our city."

PM breaks ground for Rawalpindi Ring Road, widening of Islamabad Expressway

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday launched multiple development projects for Rawalpindi and Islamabad including Rawalpindi Ring Road and the widening and rehabilitation of Islamabad Expressway from PWD to T-Chowk.

The event was attended by Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah, Federal Minister for Information Marriyum Aurangzeb and high-ranking officers and other dignitaries.

The prime minister performed the groundbreaking of widening and rehabilitation of Islamabad Expressway from PWD to T-Chowk, which will expand the road from four to eight lanes and benefit approximately 1.2 million people.

He also performed the groundbreaking of Rawalpindi Ring Road, a signal-free controlled access six lanes connection between GT Road and motorway.

Prime Minister Shehbaz inaugurated an interchange at Islamabad Expressway, which will provide a smooth and safe link for the people on both sides of the road.

During the briefing, the officials highlighted the importance of Dadhocha Dam and Kharian-Rawalpindi Motorway for the region.

The prime minister appreciated the efforts of Frontier Works Organization (FWO) and expressed his gratitude to the Capital Development Authority and Rawalpindi Development Authority for initiating and executing the said projects.

"These projects will enhance infrastructure, reduce traffic congestion, stimulate economic growth and improve the overall quality of life for the residents of the twin cities," the prime minister remarked.

He also performed the groundbreaking of Rawalpindi Ring Road, a signal-free controlled access six lanes connection between GT Road and motorway.

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 (FTG). 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.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing the ground breaking and inauguration ceremony of various development projects for Islamabad and Rawalpindi.

Baloch highlights science ministry's performance, says remarkable growth achieved

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Science and Technology, Agha Hassan Baloch Tuesday said that the coalition government has achieved remarkable milestones in the science and technology sector during the last 15 months.

Addressing a presser along with the senior officials of departments working under the Ministry of Science and Technology, the federal minister highlighted that the institutions of the country were on the verge of destruction and the country was heading towards default due to the

ineffective policies of the previous government.

However, the way Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has lifted this country out of the economic crisis despite the financial hardships and put it on the path of progress and prosperity reflects his dynamic vision.

Unlike the previous government, the present coalition government has focused on development in Balochistan province at par with other provinces which is worth appreciating, the minister said. "Establishment of National University of Sci-

ence and Technology Khuzdar Campus, COMSATS Quetta and Gwadar campuses, Expansion of Pakistan Halal Authority offices to Quetta and Gwadar, Establishment of Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority offices in Taftan, Chaman and Gwadar for boosting trade activities to generate revenues and appointment of Science Counsellor in Beijing to represent Pakistan and engage in scientific cooperation were few of the landmarks achieved during the period," the minister stated.

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 misguidedly youth by showing an 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.



ISLAMABAD: Parliamentary Secretary for Education, Professional Training Ms. Zeb Jaffar distributing certificate to appreciate the team's endeavor focused on producing printed Materials for children with dyslexia at National Book Foundation.

CDA seals 28 illegally established car showrooms in Capital's posh sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Capital Development Authority (CDA) on Tuesday sealed 28 illegally established car showrooms in the federal capital's posh sectors on the directions of Chairman CDA Noor Ul Amin Mengal.

During the operation, on the first day illegal showrooms were sealed in the Blue Area, including the F-10 and F-11 Markaz, a CDA official said in a statement.

The Authority's Building Control, Enforcement, and Estate staff participated in the operation against illegal car showrooms.

The unauthorised car showrooms were not only occupying public parking

areas but were also creating problems for the pedestrians, the CDA official said.

On the instructions of Chairman CDA Noor Ul Amin Mengal, through advertisements, property owners were warned not to use their properties illegally. "All buildings and properties used illegally besides the allotted purpose will be sealed. So far, leases of 117 properties have been canceled where illegal showrooms were set up," he said.

A detailed survey was conducted after the deadline given by the CDA and several notices were issued whereas a list of illegal car showrooms established in all centers was compiled by the Authority.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Sehar Kamran cutting ribbon to inaugurate painting exhibition titled "Kashmir conflict through Art" organized by Department of Islamic Art and Architecture, International Islamic University Islamabad and Youth Forum for Kashmir in connection with Kashmir Siege Day to commemorate and show solidarity with our Kashmiri brother and sisters.

NHA contradicts baseless allegations on social media regarding expenditure on Pinjra bridge diversion

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Highway Authority (NHA) on Wednesday contradicted a baseless and unjustified allegation on various social media handles, stating, that the authority had incurred expenditure amounting to Rs. 650 million on the temporary diversion of Pinjra Bridge on National Highway N-65, Balochistan.

In a statement, the NHA said that this absolutely baseless allegation was tarnishing the image of the department.

During monsoon 2022, Balochistan received unprecedented 450 per cent rainfall higher than the national 30-year average, resulting into hill torrents, flash floods and inundations in several districts in North-East Balochistan, especially in Hub-Uthal-Bela Section of National

Highway N-25, Khuzdar-Shahdadkot Section of M-8 and Quetta-Sibi-Dera Allah Yar Section of National Highway N-65. These damages include the collapse of Pinjra Bridge N-65, Hub Bridge, Lunda Bridge N-25 and Mando Bridge M-8.

Moreover, approaches and embankments of Kanta Bridge, Bagar Nala Bridge, Sardi Wala Bridge, Baleli Bridge and a number of Culverts on N-25 were also damaged.

The National Highway Authority immediately mobilized resources and required machinery for the temporary restoration of the road network and traffic was restored on all highways by providing detours and backfilling on damaged portions through RMA (Road Maintenance Account) Funds.

Pak Secretariat's Kohsar block declared as smoke-free

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination has declared the Pak Secretariat, Kohsar Block as smoke-free under the law of Prohibition of Smoking and Protection of Non-smokers Health Ordinance 2022 during an orientation meeting with all the stakeholders.

Dr. Baseer Khan Achakzai, Director General

Health made this announcement while addressing the participants of the orientation meeting for implementation of Tobacco Control Laws conducted at Kohsar Block, Pak Secretariat. He said that each year, nearly 8 million lives are tragically lost due to tobacco-related illnesses, with more than 1,200,000 of those deaths affecting non-smokers who breathe in second-hand smoke.

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.

Comprehensive measures ordered to prevent crime in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Police has been directed to uphold vigilant standards within the city, ensuring a robust crackdown on criminal elements. In a meeting chaired by CPO/DIG Operations Islamabad, Syed Shehzad Nadeem Bukhari, it was decided to enhance public safety and combat criminal activities besides elaborate security arrangements in the city.

The meeting convened to address crime prevention strategies was attended among others by SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar, Zonal DPOs, SDPOs, and Officers In-Charge/Muhtamim from all police stations.

The CPO/DIG (Operations) conducted a comprehensive review of the performance of all police stations, resulting in the suspension of Officers In-Charge/Muhtamim from the Secretariat, Bhara Kahu, Shahzad Town, and Banigala police stations. In contrast, the Officer-In-Charge/Muhtamim of Lohibher was recognized and commended for exceptional performance.

A seven-day grace period has been granted to officers to enhance their performance standards. The emphasis lies on efficient policing, with special security arrangements slated for the upcoming August 14 events.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Afnan Ullah Khan, Chairman Senate Standing Committee On National Heritage & Culture presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.