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President, PM express grief over loss of lives Over 30 killed, scores injured as 10 bogies of Hazara Express derail near Nawabshah

Railways minister hints at possible sabotage, says accident could be result of a mechanical fault or the fault may have been 'created'

NAWABSHAH (INP): Over 30 people were killed and dozens others injured when ten bogies of Havelian bound Hazara Express derailed near the Sarhari Railway Station close to Nawabshah on Sunday. Local people, rescue personnel, railway officials, Pakistan Army, FC and officials of district management reached the scene and joined the rescue operation. Talking to media at People's Medical College Hospital in Benazirabad, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah confirmed the death toll.

He said that the injured could be shifted to Karachi if needed and directed the local administration and health officials to expedite relief and rescue efforts. According to Railways and Aviation Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique, the accident occurred at 1:18pm and around 1,000 passengers were travelling in the Hazara Express. During rescue operation, dozens of cars, tractors, rickshaws and motorcycles were seen parked on a road that runs alongside the track at the site of accident.

Volunteers were witnessed through a canal that separates the road from the railway line to help, and lifting the injured to get them assistance. Some passenger compartments were upright but off the tracks, while others lay on their side, mangled steel from the undercarriage twisted and buckled. There were chaotic scenes at the Nawabshah Trauma Centre as ambulances and private cars ferried the injured for treatment. Talking to media in Lahore, Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique

said that initial investigation showed that the train was travelling at a "reasonable" speed, adding that officials had reached the scene and an emergency was imposed in hospitals in Sukkur and Nawabshah. He said, "This is quite a big accident. There can be two reasons: first that it was a mechanical fault, or the fault was created — it might be a sabotage. We will investigate it." The minister further stated that relevant district administrations, Rescue 1122 personnel, the Pakistan Army and Pakistan Railways staff

reached the site of the accident soon after the incident and began relief activities. The incident comes a day after the Allama Iqbal Express escaped a major disaster when two of its bogies derailed near Padidan railway station in the wee hours of Saturday, resulting in the suspension of traffic on the affected railway track. However, no casualty was reported in the incident, said rescue officials. President Dr Arif Alvi Sunday expressed grief over the loss of lives in the accident of Hazara Express train. He sympathised with



NAWABSHAH: A large numbers of people gathered at the accident site following the derailment of a Hazara Express in Nawabshah

the bereaved families and prayed for grant of patience to them.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of pre-

vious lives in an accident of Hazara Express in Nawabshah. He prayed for the departed souls and ordered the administration to provide the best possible medical treatment to the in-

jured. He sought a report from the railways authorities about the accident. He praised the efforts of personnel of Pakistan Railways, Rescue and Pakistan army for their timely help.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a public gathering in Kasur.

Nawaz Sharif to be next PM if voted to power: PM

KASUR (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Sunday said Nawaz Sharif would be the next prime minister of Pakistan and would change destiny of the country by initiating projects in the sectors of agriculture, industry and infrastructure.

He was speaking at a public meeting here after laying foundation stone for Taray Garh interchange on the Lahore-Bahawalnagar motorway and Rai Mansab Ali Khan interchange on the Abdul Hakim motorway on the Bucheki-Nankana road. "Nawaz Sharif will serve the people of Pakistan as prime minister for another term if voted to power. He considers the

whole of Pakistan as his family and in the past selflessly served the people," he remarked.

He said Rs 263 billion would be spent on the construction of motorway from Lahore to Bahawalnagar and on other projects.

He recalled that in the past, Pakistan suffered from load-shedding of 20 hours every day and then Nawaz Sharif came in 2013 and he removed the darkness caused by power shortages by setting up power projects, revived industry and agriculture and brought the CPEC project of \$ 30 billion with the collaboration of China. He said their govern-

ment provided laptops worth billions of rupees to millions of students, adding he was unfairly criticised for delivering laptops to youth who were now using modern tools of communication and earning livelihoods.

He noted that Nawaz Sharif initiated the project of Diamer Bhasha and Dasu dams and made Pakistan a nuclear state by conducting six nuclear explosions in response to five explosions by India.

He reminded that Nawaz Sharif rejected the offer of \$ five billion by the then US President Bill Clinton and went on with the nuclear explosions while ignoring pressure

Senate passes amended 'Official Secrets Bill 2023' amidst controversy

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Sunday successfully passed 'The Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023', marking a pivotal moment in the legislative landscape.

The bill, which had faced staunch opposition from various quarters, underwent crucial modifications before achieving passage. Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazir Tarar, presented the bill on behalf of Minister for Interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, in the house. Notably, the revised version of the bill omitted certain provisions that had granted intelligence agencies the authority to carry out warrantless arrests or searches.

He emphasized that the revised legislation empowers the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to conduct investigations into individuals suspected of violating the Official Secrets Act.

He highlighted that the

bill no longer includes the amendment labelling an individual as an 'enemy' for engaging with foreign agents, a provision that had sparked extensive debates.

Simultaneously, the Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet, chaired by Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmed, presented its comprehensive report on 'The Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023'. The committee's report underscored the urgency to amend the antiquated Official Secrets Act of 1923, considering the evolving social context and the necessity to safeguard official documents. It's worth mentioning that the bill encountered formidable resistance during its journey through the upper house of parliament. Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjrami had referred the bill to the relevant standing committee on August 2, following vehement opposition during the initial proceedings.

Imran's arrest not political Cases cannot be avoided by dodging law, attacking institutions: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb has said that cases cannot be avoided by dodging the law, evading the courts and attacking national institutions.

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan's arrest has nothing to do with politics, nor it was an act of political vendetta, she said during an exclusive interview with BBC World.

"Peaceful protest is a democratic right of any political party or worker, but no protesters came out on the arrest of chairman PTI as people cannot be fooled every time, courts are there".

The minister said that the legal procedures were completed in the Tosha Khana case against Chairman PTI, and on the completion of his trial, the court announced a verdict

on which he was arrested. She said that Chairman PTI failed to present evidence in his defense, he was accused of abuse of power, but he could not answer questions when asked about state gifts.

She said apart from this, four more cases of theft of 190 million British pounds, cipher, May 9 tragedy and foreign funding case are also in the trial courts against Imran.

In response to a question, the minister said that no one can be given impunity for misuse of powers.

She said that the arrest of Imran Khan has nothing to do with the elections, he was arrested on the order of the court. He said that when three-time elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was arrested, the elections of 2018 were very close, he was arrested along with his daughter and sent to

jail. Marriyum said that when in power Imran Khan jailed all political rivals during his tenure. He misused their powers, used NAB and FIA for the witch-hunt of his political opponents but the present government did not indulge in such tactics.

She said that the law took its course though Imran Khan kept running away from the law, he did not answer the questions of the court and was found guilty by the trial court.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that whenever the court summoned him, the situation worsened in Zaman Park, the judicial complex was attacked, then there was also the May 9 tragedy.

She said that when the court saw that dishonesty was proved beyond any doubt, it issued its verdict.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb addresses to media persons during meet the press program held at Karachi press club.

Khursheed Shah hopes elections to be held on time, PPP to stand if it delays

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan People's Party leader Syed Khursheed Shah Sunday expressed hope that Pakistan Muslim League-N will take the country in the right direction and elections would take place on time in accordance with the constitution as PPP will stand if polls will be delayed.

"Election should be held under the code of conduct as economic stability hinges on political stability", he said while talking to a private news channel. "PPP truly believes in timely and transparent elections which would be better for the country and its stability," he added.

Replying to a question about the progress in the appointment of the caretaker setup, he explained

that it was important to follow the Constitution, adding, almost all parties are included in the committee. They have finalized five names at a committee level, he added.

He said that the PM candidate should be Independent, adding, a candidate should not be an active member of any party nor be a major leader of any party.

He also appreciated PM Shehbaz Sharif and the way he took all his allied parties along, adding, he also hoped that now it's all responsibility of PML-N to take wise decisions for the caretaker of set up and timely elections for the smooth system of state affairs.

Cases against Imran Khan is Pak internal matter: US

WASHINGTON (Online): American state departments spokesperson termed arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan's arrest an internal matter of Pakistan.

On Sunday United States reaction came out on Chairman Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Imran Khan's arrest and he declared it Pakistan's internal matter.

He said cases against Imran Khan and other politician's is Pakistan's internal matter. Further he said we ask Pakistan and the whole world to respect democratic norms and rule of law.

Senate standing committee meets today on PEMRA regulatory bill

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senate standing committee will meet today (Monday) in Parliament house to discuss PEMRA Regulatory bill.

According to Senate spokesperson Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory amendment bill 2023 will be reviewed in meeting. He said it is request to all stakeholders to submit their amendments, suggestions, Reforms in Committee secretariat before meeting.

AJK Assembly strongly rejects abrogation of Article 370 by Indian govt

MIRPUR AJK (APP): The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (AJK LA) in its meeting held here on Sunday, strongly rejected the abrogation of Article 370 by Indian government and termed it a dirty conspiracy against the state subjects and their democratic rights.

They termed the sinister actions as an atrocious assault to alter the region's demographics and erode Muslim majority Kashmir's ancient political, cultural and religious identity.

According to details, the legislative body through a unanimously adopted resolution, presented by Leader of the House Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq on Saturday denounced the Indian move and termed it as a flagrant violation of the UNSC resolutions.

While presenting the resolution in the assembly, the AJK PM said that 5th August was another darkest day in the history of Kashmir.

He said that being a representative forum of the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, the AJK legislative assembly represents the sentiments and feelings of the Kashmiri living on both sides of the Line of Control.

The august House, he said, rejects the India's attempted annexation of the held territory of Jammu and Kashmir and considers all its actions as illegal and against the spirit of the UN resolutions and international law.



SANGHAR: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety & Chairperson, Benazir Income Support Programme Ms. Shazia Marri distributing ownership (Sanad) of houses built by Sindh Government to the deserving people during the ceremony Distribution of Land Title to Flood Affectees.

Seven girls drowned to death in local stream of Turbat

Independent Report QUETTA: Seven girls were drowned to death in a local stream located in Kalag area of Turbat of Kech district on Sunday evening.

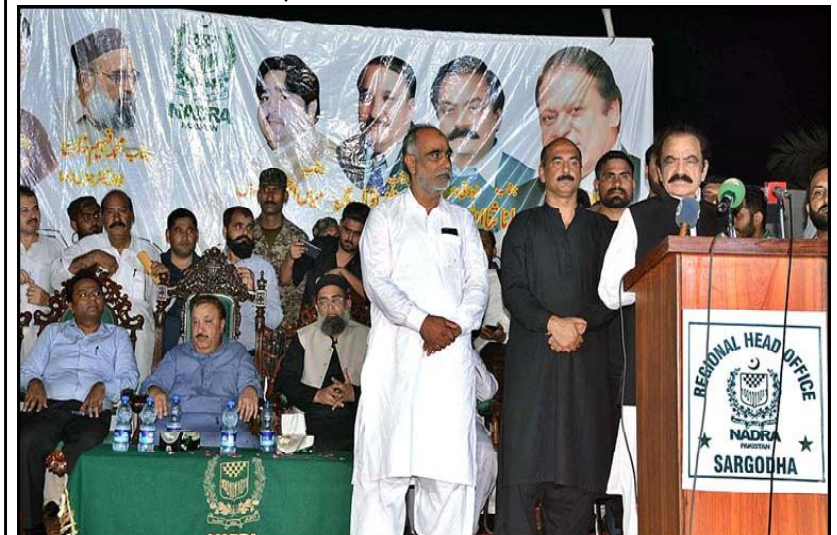
According to the reports reaching here, two other girls were saved in the incident and shifted to the local hospital in unconscious condition.

The reports suggested that at least nine girls aged between 10-17 went to the local stream of Kalag for picnic where they were trapped in the deep water and thus drowned.

The local people rushed to the spot and at-

tempted to save them, however, seven of them were drowned and died before they were taken out of the stream. The bodies of deceased girls were retrieved from the stream after hectic efforts.

Two of nine girls, however, were saved by the local dwellers and shifted to the Turbat hospital. Later, the bodies of ill-fated girls were also removed to the hospital. Afterwards, the bodies were handed over to the heirs. Moving scenes were witnessed on the occasion when bodies of the girls were brought to their homes.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan is addressing a public gathering during inauguration of Nadra Registration Centre at Union Council 117 Dhanola.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

No surprises

Pakistan's twisted political saga continues without the slightest deviation from a tired and predictable script. PTI chairman Imran Khan has been found guilty of "corrupt practices", disqualified from representing the people of Pakistan, fined Rs100,000, and sentenced to three years in jail for good measure.

If Mr Khan's actual 'crime' seems irrelevant and of little moral significance, it is because former prime ministers Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy faced similar treatment at the hands of the state; none of the charges levelled against them withstood the test of time.

Indeed, considering the frivolity of the charge and severity of Mr Khan's punishment, one need not reach too far back in history to find a parallel. Where Mr Sharif's political dreams were cut short over an unrecieved salary, Mr Khan's political career has been rudely interrupted over failing to properly declare certain gifts he received as prime minister. In neither case, can the severity of the punishment be said to have fitted the 'crime'.

There is no denying that Mr Khan blundered by not complying with the ECP's asset declaration rules as strictly as he should have. However, months of reporting on Toshakhana records have since established that very few of those who received gifts in an official capacity may be able to pass similar scrutiny if their records were to be examined with the same vigour.

Given that context, for the court to hand Mr Khan the maximum possible sentence for the offence he was charged with seems excessive. The punishment is all the more problematic after the concerns raised by several observers over the manner in which the trial was conducted and the seeming haste with which the judgement was issued. Of course, Mr Khan is entitled to appeal the sentence, and he may earn a reprieve, but the intended damage may have been done by then.

It must be asked why our state periodically subjects popular leaders to such humiliation when it routinely ignores far more serious crimes. This is, after all, the same country where a clear constitutional edict to hold elections within a specified time frame was willfully cast aside earlier this year, and there still haven't been any consequences for the actors involved in the farce.

The fact is that Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto were not, and Imran Khan will not be rendered irrelevant to Pakistanis over some technical knockout. The fate of a politician rests in the hands of their constituency, and no amount of external interference can change this simple relationship. The experiment was tried in the earlier two cases and failed, and the state seems to be repeating the same mistake, only to weaken a fraying social contract further.

By kamran Raja

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

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

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

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

In addition to these benefits, the energy projects under

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

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

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

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

required for expansion and maintenance of power generation on pace with the growing demand.

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

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

Energy projects completed under CPEC featuring advanced technologies and lower cost not only provided a solution to Pakistan's electricity shortage,

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

According to official sources, the total installed capacity of CPEC energy projects, including that of coal, wind, solar and hydropower, stands at 6,570 MW. They generated 28,549.94 Gwh and 25,772.48 Gwh power respectively in FY 2020-21 and FY2021-22, accounting for 22.03% and 18.37% of the total generation in Pakistan.

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

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

Additionally, there are many other hydro-power projects which

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

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

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

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

China is already

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

Thanks to Chinese investments, a few weeks ago Federal Power Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan inaugurated two new wind energy projects in Jhimpir, Thatta District, Sindh, with an aim to produce cheaper and clean electricity through indigenous energy sources. Wind projects in this region have been one of several renewable energy projects to have received Chinese investment in recent years. Around 90 kilometers from Karachi, Jhimpir is the heartland of the country's largest 'Wind corridor', which has the potential to produce 11,000 megawatts (MW) of energy from green resources.

Another major development took place in Wind Energy promotion when Beijing-based multinational wind turbine manufacturer, Goldwind Corporation launched the first-of-its-kind solution factory in Pakistan. The Solution Factory aims to develop localized solutions for Pakistani wind power plants.

In conclusion, CPEC energy projects have improved the power industry in Pakistan and contributed to economic growth by increasing power supply with high efficiency at lower cost.

Commerce News

State Minister says: Agricultural development vital for economic revolution

SARGODHA (APP): State Minister for Industries and Production Tasneem Ahmed Qureshi said on Sunday agricultural development was vital for bringing about an economic revolution in Pakistan.

Talking to APP here, he said the agriculture sector was facing various challenges including limited access to modern farming techniques, inadequate irrigation facilities, fragmented land holdings, and insufficient post-harvest storage and processing infrastructure.

He said these factors were affecting productivity and contributing to food insecurity. He said that food insecurity continued

to be a significant issue in many parts of South Asia as well. On the other hand, the region had made progress in recent years in reducing poverty and improving overall food security he added.

He urged that efforts must be made at the national and international levels to address food insecurity issue in South Asia, adding that the initiatives should include promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving irrigation and water management, enhancing infrastructure for storage and transportation, investing in rural development, strengthening social safety

nets, and supporting nutrition programmes to address malnutrition.

He said that Pakistan had a rapidly growing population, which placed significant pressure on food production and availability. "As the population increases, the demand for food increases, and meeting the nutritional needs of all individuals becomes more challenging," he added. Tasneem Qureshi said high poverty rate was a major contributor to food insecurity, not only in Pakistan but in South Asia as well, as many people in the region lacked financial resources to access an adequate and nutritious diet consistently.



LAHORE: Railway Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique Inaugurate Steel Shop at Mughalpur Railway workshop.

Delegation of Realtors calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the direction of Minister for Finance and Revenue, a delegation of Realtors on Sunday called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana, in order to address and resolve taxation issues concerning real-estate transactions.

The direction was issued by Finance Minister during the 90th meeting of National Assembly Standing Committee on Finance and Revenue, said a news release issued here.

The meeting was presided by the Chairman

FBR and attended by the delegation of Realtors led by Sardar Tahir Mehmood, President Federation of Realtors Pakistan, and the team of FBR officers.

Chairman FBR assured the participants that their concerns will be addressed and best possible facilitation will be ensured for removing difficulties arising on account of implementation of tax laws.

He directed his team to ensure proper coordination and consultations with the Realtors in this regard.

Global rice price index reaches record high in 12 years

LAHORE (APP): The world rice price index of the United Nations Food Agency (UNFA) experienced a notable 2.8 percent rise in July, as compared to June, reaching the highest level recorded in almost 12 years.

The overall world food price index also notably rebounded in July after experiencing two-year lows, said a UNFA report issued here.

This hike in prices was mainly driven by excessive demand in key exporting countries and India's decision to restrict its rice exports, it said. The Food and Agriculture Organisation's All Rice Price Index (ARPI), that tracks rice prices among major exporting nations, estimated an average of 129.7 points last month, a notable rise from June's 126.2 points.

Likewise, the score from July was much higher.



Leaders of Pakistan Business Forum along with Advisor to Investment Board Feroze Shah presenting souvenir to President Dr. Arif Alvi during a meeting.

Pakistan to achieve just, clean energy transition for future generations: Musadik

ISLAMABAD (APP): "Pakistan will not just talk green but will achieve a just and clean energy transition; with or without rest of world for our future generations", said Dr Musadik Malik, Minister of State for Petroleum Division here on Sunday.

He was speaking at parliamentary consultation titled "Towards a Sustainable Future: Inclusion of Just Energy Transition and Election Climate Action in Election

Manifestos 2023", jointly organized by Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) and Parliamentary Taskforce on SDGs, a news release said. The State Minister said that Russia-Ukraine crisis caused unproportional energy inflation for the developing countries, thwarting the clean energy transition and access. Therefore, it is imperative that just and clean energy transition be supported with finance mobilization for developing countries to enable technology transfer and indigenous development, he said and stressed that accountability for clean energy transition should be extended equally across the table and not just on developing countries. Dr. Musadik emphasized that Petroleum companies in Pakistan including Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL), Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), Pakistan State Oil (PSO),

down fuel import costs as even in India coal-fired power plants produce more than two third of total electricity," Amir Iqbal informed.

He said coal is considered a cheap energy resource in Pakistan to catch up with future energy requirements of domestic and commercial consumers as during the last five years coal-based power production had also witnessed a significant increase.

"We need to shift to local coal resources to scale

Need stressed for increasing UK-Pakistan bilateral trade to £ 10 billion

ISLAMABAD (APP): London-based prominent Pakistan businessman Raja Muhammad Adil on Sunday said that there are great opportunities to develop business relations between the UK and Pakistan which need to be exploited. The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) hosted a reception in the honor of Raja Muhammad Adil in which he shared his life long struggle in the UK and achievements in the field of business.

He said that he went to London in 1963 and started his professional life there as a bus driver. However, later he started business life from a small shop and achieved remarkable success in the field of business.



Federal Minister for interior, Rana Sanaullah Khan, inauguration various projects of Electricity supply to sadhar, Faisalabad.

Thar coal - a panacea to Pakistan's energy deficiency

Termining coal reserves the future of Pakistan, Amir Iqbal said Thar coal could not only be used for power generation but also ferried to different parts of the country for use in cement and steel industries. "Once, Thar coal is connected with railway network, it would be open all across the country and pave the way for its economic prosperity."

Statistics show that the average coal consumption in power plants is approximately 0.62kWh. However, the new efficient power plants utilize 10% less coal as compared to ordinary plants.

He said India import 200 million tons of coal annually besides utilizing 500-600 million tons of domestic coal while Pakistan's coal production stood at merely 14 to 15 million tons per annum.

"SECMC is extracting 7.6 million tons coal per annum from Block-II and its capacity is being expanded to 11.2 million tons," Amir said and informed that Thar coal has total of 13 blocks but only two blocks were being mined presently."

Kundi inaugurates BISP Tehsil office in Paniala

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday inaugurated Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) Tehsil office in Paniala.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, the special assistant said the establishment of the BISP office in Paniala was the beginning of the first government office in this Tehsil.

Paniala was given the status of Tehsil several years ago, but till date no Tehsil level office of any provincial department has been established here, he astonished.

He said today a

promise made with the people of Paniala has been fulfilled as a fully equipped office has been inaugurated here.

He said that 28,000 deserving people were benefiting in Paharpur Tehsil which include women from Paniala. Now, the women of this area would have the facility at their door step, he said and vowed that a nutrition office would also be established here.

Faisal Kundi said that he had written a letter for establishment of NADRA and Passport offices in Paniala, adding, he himself would meet with Interior Minister soon for the purpose.

He said "we always

prioritized serving the people and make efforts for the development of the area and its people."

He regretted that the people of Paniala were deprived of CPEC interchange, adding, he would write a letter to National Highways and Motorway Chairman to build an interchange here on CPEC route.

Faisal Kundi said he would request to the prime minister to release funds for the mega projects which the premier had inaugurated in Dera Ismail Khan recently.

He said that he was always ready to join hands with his political opponents for the sake of regional development and prosperity.



FAISALABAD: Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan is cutting ribbon to inaugurate Nadra Registration Centre at Union Council 117 Dhanola.

Justice Raza Ali takes oath as acting CJ of AJK

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Justice Raza Ali Khan on Sunday takes oath as Acting Chief Justice (CJ) of the Supreme Court (SC) of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK).

The AJK President Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry administered the oath of office to Justice Raza Ali Khan as Acting CJ of the apex court of the AJK State at a ceremony held at the President's House in the State metropolis.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended among others by Chief Justice High Court, Justice

Sadaqat Hussain Raja, Justice Sardar Liaquat Shaheen, Justice Mian Arif Hussain, Justice Syed Shahid Bahar, Justice Sardar Muhammad Ejaz, Justice Ghulam Mustafa Mughal, Chief Election Commissioner Abdul Rashid Salharia, Raja Tariq Javed Chairman Service Tribunal, Mushtaq Ahmed Tahir, Member Service Tribunal, Chaudhry Muhammad Munir Judge Election Tribunal, Raja Rashid Naseem Chairman Environmental Tribunal, Farooq Muhammad District and Sessions Judge Muzaffarabad and others.

Kundi grieved over Nawabshah Train accident

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): Special Assistant to the prime minister on Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday expressed his deep grief and sorrow over the tragic accident of Hazara Express in Nawabshah district of Sindh. In a statement, the special assistant said the Hazara Express train accident has made whole the nation sad. He said Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was in constant contact with the Sindh administration and monitoring the relief activities.

Durrani inaugurates 'Kalam Bibi Intl Women Institute' at Bannu University

DERA ISMAIL KHAN (APP): National Assembly Deputy Speaker Zahid Akram Durrani has inaugurated the 'Kalam Bibi International Women Institute' here at the University of Bannu in Bannu.

In this regard a ceremony was held wherein Zahid Akram Durrani was chief guest. On this occasion, the deputy speaker was accompanied by former MPs Fakhr-e-Azam and Qari Gul Azeem. Bannu University Vice Chancellor Dr Khair uz Zaman gave a briefing to the deputy speaker.

Addressing the ceremony, Durrani said it was a long standing demand of the people to have a university for women in the area and this institute would help to ensure provision of quality education to the female students of the area.

He acknowledged the role of Federal Minister for Planning Development & Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal and the Higher Education Commission (HEC) in establishment of this institute. He said the institute established at a cost of Rs 25.4 million would be totally solarized. He said the southern districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including Bannu remained neglected during the last government of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) as no funds were released for development of these areas.



KARACHI: Passengers sit worried at platform as trains are late from their original schedules after a Hazara Express accident near Nawabshah, at Cantt Station in Karachi.

SAPM says: PML-N believes in serving masses only

SARGODHA (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Gas and Energy Chaudhry Hamid Hameed has said that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) believed in serving masses by launching public welfare and national development programmes.

While talking to APP here at Sargodha on Sunday, he said the PML-N initiated a number of development projects across the country including Sargodha to materialise the dream of

national progress and prosperity, adding that Pakistan was making progress speedily in 2018 when the PML-N government was toppled under a deep-rooted conspiracy. The minister said that petrol was available at Rs 65 per litre, sugar at Rs 52 per kg and US dollar rate was Rs 110 in 2018 when an incompetent person like Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan was imposed on the nation.

Three killed in separate incidents

ATTOCK (APP): Three persons including an employee of Punjab health department were killed in three separate incidents in various parts of Attock on Sunday, police and rescue sources said.

In the first incident, 38 years old Muhammad Saqib-an employee of the Punjab health department presently posted at district headquarters hospital was stabbed to death in the limits of Attock city Police station. The assailants managed to escape after restoring aerial firing. In the second, 50 years old, Afghan national was axed to death in Jallo area near Burhan motorway interchange in the limits of Hassanabdal Police station.

Police sources said that the deceased identified as Imrat Khan, who runs a small shop on GT road. On Sunday, when he was going to open his shop, unknown masked men intercepted him and attacked him with axes and killed him.

Later, the attackers throw his body at a vacant plot and fled away from the scene successfully.

Flood in river Sutlej Local communities, PDMA helping affectees to mitigate effects

MULTAN (APP): Feeling pain of those displaced, whose belongings are taken away by flood and who felt dejected to witness so much water after almost 36 years, the local communities and relatives came forward to lend helping hands by providing them shelters and food despite arrangements made by Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) for flood affected people around river Sutlej.

A ferocious flood is witnessed this year in river Sutlej submerging hundreds of acres of land leaving thousands of people

homeless, but the generous assistance of local community remained exemplary.

Punjab Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) has also established relief camps, equipped with different sorts of facilities including availability of food, healthcare, fodder for animals and camps but most of the affectees sought shelter at their relatives' or friends' homes instead of camps so far.

During last three decades, the flow of water in river Sutlej was on decrease and the river had

almost dried up near Bahawalpur. Noticing this trend, people had constructed structures in low-lying areas of the river, which are now under water.

The flood water also entered into scores of adjacent "Mauzajat" and damaged hundreds of homes and crops on thousands of acres. Although, the majority of the farmers have picked crops, especially maize which is a popular crop of the region.

A citizen namely Sajjad Saldaira, a resident of Sahuka (Burewala)

talking to APP informed that a good number of flood-affected people left the river bed and sought shelter in relatives and friends' homes.

He informed that he himself managed accommodation for 15 families. Relatives, friends and other people were exhibiting kind gestures in this crucial time for flood-hit people, he said, adding the majority of displaced people were farmers and cattle holders whose animals had also been adjusted.

Another citizen, Qasim also spoke and

informed that he also provided residence facility to two families, while a good number of flood-hit families were living in their village.

Responding to problems in the areas, he stated that the government should increase number of medical professionals as some people were facing health complications. Similarly, the availability of fodder for cattle should be managed properly and the administration should provide "Wanda" to feed animals as due to flood, there was a shortage of fodder for cattle.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Peoples Party Shaheed Bhutto (PPP-SB) are holding protest demonstration against the auction and excavation of Karoonjhar, at Hyderabad press club.

International News

Russia launches burst of missile and drone attacks, Ukraine says

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Ukraine said Russia bombed a blood transfusion centre near the front line in a wave of air strikes overnight while Moscow reported that it had shot down a drone heading to the capital on Sunday in the third such attack in a week.

Both countries have stepped up attacks on each other's troops, weaponry and infrastructure supporting the war as Ukraine seeks to dislodge Russian forces who have dug in across southern and eastern Ukraine since their invasion last year.

The Moscow-appointed head of Crimea said the Chonhar bridge to the peninsula, which was annexed from Ukraine by Moscow in 2014, had been damaged by a missile strike. Another of the three road links between Crimea and Russian-occupied

parts of mainland Ukraine, near the town of Henichesk, was shelled and a civilian driver wounded, a Moscow-appointed official said.

Ukraine calls Jeddah talks productive, Russia calls them doomed

Monitoring Desk
RIYADH: A senior Ukrainian official said on Sunday that talks in Saudi Arabia to make headway towards a peaceful settlement of the war with Russia had been productive, but Moscow called the meeting a doomed attempt to swing the Global South behind Kyiv.

More than 40 countries, including China, India, the United States, and European countries, but not Russia, are taking part in the Jeddah talks that are expected to end on Sunday without any written concluding statement. Ukraine and its allies have said the talks are an attempt to secure broad international support for principles that Kyiv wants to be the basis for peace, including the withdrawal of all Russian troops and the return of all Ukrainian territory to its control. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said he wants a global summit to take place based on those principles later this year. Eighteen months after Russia invaded Ukraine, any prospect of direct peace talks between Kyiv and Moscow appears remote.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain urge citizens to leave Lebanon after Palestinian refugee camp clashes

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Bahrain called on its citizens Saturday to leave Lebanon "for their own safety" hours after Saudi Arabia did the same without giving a reason.

The decision by the two Gulf nations came after days of fighting in the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon between members of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah group and militants of Islamic groups.

The four days of fighting in Ein el-Hilweh camp near the southern port city of Sidon has left 13 people dead and dozens wounded. Bahrain's Foreign Ministry said Bahrainis should abide by the government's previous decisions to avoid travel to Lebanon. The Saudi embassy in Beirut posted a statement late Friday night on X, formerly known as Twitter.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance at a major weapon factory in this image released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency.

Philippines says China blocked, water-cannoned boat in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
MANILA: The Philippines on Sunday accused China's coast guard of blocking and water-cannoning a Philippine military supply boat in the South China Sea, condemning the "excessive and offensive actions" against its vessels.

China's coast guard countered that it had implemented necessary controls under the law to deter Philippine ships, which it accused of trespassing and carrying illegal building materials. China claims sovereignty

over almost the entire South China Sea, an assertion rejected internationally, while Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Taiwan and the Philippines have various claims to certain areas.

Beijing often irks its neighbours with maritime actions they call aggressive and with longer-term activities like building islands on reefs and equipping them with missiles and runways.

A Chinese coast guard vessel on Saturday blocked and water-cannoned the chartered Philippine boat

on a routine troop rotation and resupply mission, "in wanton disregard of the safety of the people on board and in violation of international law", the Armed Forces of the Philippines said.

It said in a statement the incident occurred near the Second Thomas Shoal, which Manila calls Ayungin Shoal, a submerged reef where a handful of its troops live on a rusty World War Two-era U.S. ship that was intentionally grounded in 1999.

N. Korean leader Kim tours weapons factories and vows to boost war readiness in face of tensions

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korean leader Kim Jong Un toured the country's key weapons factories, including those producing artillery systems and launch vehicles for nuclear-capable ballistic missiles, and pledged to speed up efforts to advance his military's arms and war readiness, state media said Sunday.

Kim's three-day inspections through Saturday came as the United States and South Korea prepared for their next round of combined military exercises planned for later this month to cope with the growing North

Korean threat.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest level in years as the pace of North Korea's missile tests and the joint U.S.-South Korea military drills, which Kim portrays as invasion rehearsals, have both intensified in a tit-for-tat cycle.

Some experts say Kim's tour of the weapons factories could also be related to possible military cooperation with Moscow that may involve North Korean supplies of artillery and other ammunition as Russian President Vladimir Putin reaches out to other countries for support in the war in Ukraine.



Belarus' exiled opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya gives an opening speech during The New Belarus conference in Warsaw, Poland.

2 dead, 57 rescued from migrant shipwrecks off Italy's Lampedusa

Monitoring Desk
ROME: Italy's coastguard said on Sunday it had recovered two bodies and rescued 57 people off the southern island of Lampedusa, amid reports that more than 30 people were missing following two shipwrecks.

The Ansa news agency, citing survivors' accounts, reported that two migrant boats had set off from the port of Sfax, a hotspot for Tunisia's migration crisis, had sunk on Saturday on their way to Europe. One was carrying 48 people; the second 42, Ansa said, adding

that the coastguard found the survivors about 23 nautical miles (46 km) south-west of Lampedusa, as well as the two victims - a woman from Ivory Coast and her one-year-old child. A coastguard spokesperson said he could only confirm the number of survivors and the recovery of two bodies.

More than 2,000 people have arrived in Lampedusa in the last few days after being rescued at sea by Italian patrol boats and NGO groups, as strong winds further complicate the situation around the island.



Mourners carry the body of Palestinian who was killed during clashes with Israeli settlers, in a hospital in Ramallah, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Closing youth festival in Portugal, pope shares 'old man's' dream of peace

Monitoring Desk
LISBON: Pope Francis closed an international festival of Catholic Youth on Sunday with a huge outdoor Mass and his own "I have a dream" speech, saying it was for world peace, especially for Ukraine.

About 1.5 million people attended his closing Mass at a riverside park in the Portuguese

capital, the Vatican said, quoting local authorities. Many of the faithful slept outdoors, having attending a vigil there on Saturday night, and they gathered in sweltering heat.

Speaking after the Mass, the 86-year-old Francis urged the young people to take the fraternal experiences of the six-day jamboree back home.

capable of ensuring Persian Gulf security" themselves. "What do the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean have to do with America? What is your business being here?" Shekarchi was quoted as saying by the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

State news agency IRNA said the Revolutionary Guards' weapons include "various types of drones ... and several hundred cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 300.

Iran boosts navy with missiles, drones as US offers guards for Gulf ships

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran has equipped its Revolutionary Guards' navy with drones and 1,000-km (600-mile) range missiles, Iranian news agencies reported on Saturday, as the U.S. offers to put guards on commercial ships going through the Gulf's Strait of Hormuz.

Referring to the possible presence of U.S. guards, Iranian armed forces spokesman Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi said the region's countries were "ca-

Ukraine strikes Chonhar bridge to Crimea

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The Chonhar road bridge linking mainland Ukraine to Crimea was damaged by a Ukrainian missile strike on Sunday, Russia's RIA news agency cited the Moscow-appointed head of Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, as saying.

RIA cited acting Kherson regional governor Vladimir Saldo - another Moscow appointee - as saying the strike on the bridge, one of three road links between Crimea and mainland Ukraine, involved an Anglo-French Storm Shadow missile.

Iran boosts navy with missiles, drones as US offers guards for Gulf ships

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Upper House clears HEC (Amendment) Bill, 2023 to strengthen higher education

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate passed The HEC (Amendment) Bill, 2023 on Sunday with a majority vote, and the bill aims to strengthen and revitalize the Higher Education Commission (HEC).

The Bill was moved by Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar was passed by the House with 23 votes in favour and 16 in opposition. The prime minister has been given the controlling authority of the Higher Education Commission. The primary goal of the bill was to strengthen the higher education sector in the country and guarantee access to quality education for everyone.

The term of appointment for the Chairman of HEC has been extended to four years from the previ-

ous three years. This change aims to promote stability and continuity in the commission's leadership, leading to improved long-term planning and policy implementation.

The bill's objective is to rectify discrepancies present in the existing HEC Ordinance 2002. The 18th constitutional amendment has diminished the regulatory authority of HEC, leading to inadequate legal power for enforcing standardization in the higher education sector.

Earlier, Senator Irfan Siddiqui, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Federal Education and Professional Training, presented the committee's report on the bill to amend the Higher Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Dar asserts low possibility of error in unanimously approved digital census

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of Finance and Revenue Muhammad Ishaq Dar Sunday emphasized that the digital census, which was unanimously approved by the Council of Common Interests (CCI), has a lower possibility of error. Defending the digital census in the Upper House while speaking on a point of order, Leader of the House Ishaq Dar pointed out that the decision regarding the new census was made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) government. He informed the Senate that Rs 34 billion had been spent on the endeavor.

He mentioned that the census had received approval from eight members of the CCI. The finance minister mentioned that comprehensive details had been provided to all provinces. The average population growth stands at 2.55 per-

cent, compared to 2.44 percent recorded in the 2017 census. Balochistan has the highest growth rate at 3.25 percent. The digital population census incurred an expenditure of 34 billion rupees, he told.

The finance minister also revealed that a minister from the previous government had caused harm to Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). He asserted that reforms were being implemented to enhance aviation and there was a focus on improving the performance of steel mills. Steps are being taken to reduce PIA's deficit and some aviation-related laws have been presented in the Parliament, he said.

Senator Ishaq Dar emphasized that matters of national interest should not be politicized. Additionally, he informed the Senate that PIA flights to the United Kingdom (UK) would resume in October.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif offering dua after unveiling plaque during the groundbreaking ceremony of PKLI University and Launching of the National Hepatitis C Elimination Campaign.

Ahsan lauds PIDE's efforts in expanding its research dissemination network

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Chancellor acknowledged economic research's pivotal role in shaping nations' future worldwide. He emphasized that economic research at PIDE serves as a navigator for policymakers, guiding them toward informed choices that align with the long-term interests of Pakistan. By fostering international cooperation and addressing global challenges, PIDE's research plays a significant role in contributing to a stable and harmonious global economy. Underlining the government's commitment to equipping Pakistan with an intellectual arsenal, the Chancellor outlined the "5 Es Strategy" focusing on increasing exports, building a knowledge economy, addressing environmental and climate change challenges, securing sustainable energy and infrastructure, and promoting equity and empowerment.

PIDE's role in evidence-based research and carving better policies and strategies was highlighted as pivotal in addressing the challenges faced by the nation. The Chancellor ap-

plauded PIDE's efforts in expanding its research dissemination network through various social media platforms, webinars, and the RASTA Competitive Grants Program for Policy-Oriented Research, which has successfully created a network of over 2000 researchers and academicians. This was stated by the Honorable Minister of Planning Development & Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal at the groundbreaking ceremony of PIDE's own new building in H-8/1 Islamabad. During the Ground Breaking Ceremony, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, in his address as a chief guest, emphasized the significance of PIDE as the nation's premier think tank, emphasizing that it goes beyond being just a building; it is an intellectual powerhouse and a crucible of ideas where brilliant minds converge to address the complexities of Pakistan's economic challenges. He further underlined the institute's commitment to harnessing the power of intellect for an equitable and thriving future for the people of Pakistan. Research and innovation, the Chancellor asserted, hold the key to national progress and development. In today's rapidly evolving global landscape, research serves as a guiding compass, illuminating the path toward prosperity, sustainability, and societal advancement. By unlocking new frontiers of knowledge and catalyzing transformative change, research empowers the nation to harness human ingenuity and creativity. The new PIDE building, the Chancellor declared, will provide a state-of-the-art home for the think tank's ongoing pursuit of knowledge and understanding. This smart, vertical, and environmentally friendly campus will further strengthen PIDE's tradition of excellence and its commitment to walking the talk. He concluded by expressing his best wishes for the successful completion of the construction and the future endeavors of PIDE. He emphasized his belief that PIDE's new home will solidify its position as the nation's leading think tank and contribute significantly to Pakistan's journey towards becoming a knowledge economy.

PM Shahbaz says Serving ailing humanity; a collective responsibility of all

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Sunday said that all those who were tasked with the onus to serve humanity, should strive for the provision of free-of-cost health and education facilities to the poor and deprived segments of society. The prime minister was addressing a conference arranged here to create awareness about the elimination of Hepatitis-C in the country arranged at Pakistan Kidney and Liver Institute (PKLI).

Addressing the participants, the prime minister said it was their collective responsibility to serve the poor and deprived masses by setting up health facilities like the PKLI in line with the vision of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of the nation, and in accordance with the concept of the welfare state.

The event was attended by Governor Punjab

Muhammad Balighur Rehman, ministers, experts and relevant authorities.

The prime minister termed the event a historic and said that he always desired to see PKLI working on the pattern of Johns Hopkins of the USA.

He said the PKLI journey started in 2014, when he requested Dr Saeed Akhtar to set up a state-of-the-art institute for the kidney and liver diseases in Punjab province.

The prime minister said that the institute was established with an autonomous body to rid it of any official red tape.

The project was launched in 2015 and was completed in 2018 when the first kidney transplant was performed, he recalled.

The prime minister said that till this day, a total of 1000 transplants had been performed at PKLI which was another milestone.

The PKLI had now Rs 15 billion in the trust fund which would help in providing free treatment to the poor people, he added.

He observed that previously, they used to send liver disease patients to other neighbouring countries. PKLI was established in the country which entertained patients irrespective of class and without discrimination, he said, adding it was also an essence for the creation of Pakistan for which Quaid and a large number of people gave huge sacrifices.

He regretted that the poor people in the country suffered while the rich had all the resources to get treatment for themselves at the best facilities in the world.

The prime minister said during 2018, about 26 Hepatitis C filter clinics were established in the province under the umbrella of PKLI where patients were treated with great care and with free medicines.



ISLAMABAD: PIDE VC, Dr. Nadeem ul Haque presenting souvenir to Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal during inauguration of the foundation stone of PIDE's new building. Pro VC Dr. Durre Nayab, and other important dignitaries are also present on the occasion.

PTI threw "petrol bomb of inflation" on people: Marriyum Aurangzeb

KARACHI (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) four-year rule which triggered extreme inflation in the country due to wrong economic policies and massive corruption of its leadership.

"The people fully knows the difference between development, destruction and conspiracies," she said while drawing a comparison between the destructive policies of the PTI government, and development-oriented and public-friendly initiatives of the coalition government in the last 15 months.

Addressing a news conference at the Karachi Press Club, she recalled that

the PTI pelted petrol bombs on the police when the PTI chief's residence in Zaman Park was raided.

She said the PTI chief was the mastermind of May 9 incidents when the Law Enforcement Agencies' vans, mosques, ambulances, memorials of martyrs and sensitive installations were set on fire.

On the contrary, she said the three-time prime minister brought prosperity and development in the country by ending load-shedding and curbing terrorism. Nawaz Sharif launched the Pakistan Economic Corridor, made the country's defence impregnable and spread network of roads across Pakistan, she added.

Mariyum said curbs were imposed on the media

and freedom of expression during the four-year of the PTI, however, the press clubs across the country provided a platform to the then opposition leaders to spread their messages among the masses and highlight fascism of the previous regime. She said the PTI chairman was declared "predator" for media by the international organization, but Pakistan ranking in press freedom improved during the last fifteen months of the coalition government. She said the PEMRA Ordinance of 2022 was a "black law" which was enacted by a dictator, but it was the coalition government which introduced amendments after twelve months of extensive consultation.



ISLAMABAD: Motorists on their way at Islamabad Highway in Federal Capital. Section 144 imposed in major Pakistani cities after Chairman PTI arrest.

Appeal right intact for Imran: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law, Azam Nazir Tarar, stated on Sunday that former Prime Minister Imran Khan still possesses the right to appeal the verdict, and the punishment awarded to Khan in the Toshakhana reference was in accordance with the law.

Speaking in the Senate, the Minister mentioned that the PTI chairman had been provided an opportunity to demonstrate his innocence, but now, since he has been convicted, he must face the consequences. The Minister further stated that out of 40 court summonses related to the reference, the PTI chairman appeared only three times, and these assets were the basis for his conviction.

He pointed out that, in contrast to Imran, former prime ministers Nawaz Sharif and Syed Yousaf Raza Gilani did not possess the right to appeal the verdicts issued against them.

More than 1700 citizens get fine tickets over violation of speed limits in I'bad

Independent report
ISLAMABAD: The squads of Islamabad capital police checking speed limits through cameras issued more than 1700 fine tickets to road users over violations during the ongoing year, a police relations officer said.



Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP), he said that a special campaign is underway to check violations while various squads headed by Chief Traffic Officer Islamabad are performing duties at main roads of the city and taking action against the violators of speed limits. During the ongoing year, action was taken against traf-

fic rules violators and more than 1700 road users were fined over violation of speed limits on main roads including Srinagar Highway and Faisal Avenue.

The CTO Islamabad Dr Syed Mustafa Tanveer said that efforts are under-

way to ensure a disciplined traffic system in the city and he also appealed to the citizens to follow rules.

He said that Islamabad capital police personnel have been directed to ensure implementation on traffic rules and regulation irrespective of status and rank and demonstrate patience and politeness while issuing traffic violation tickets to the road users.

AJK PM warns Matching response to every Indian misadventure at LOC

MIRPUR AJK (APP): Azad Jammu and Kashmir Prime Minister (AJK PM) Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that any aggression or misadventures by India on the Line of Control (LOC) shall be paid back in the same coin.

Addressing a special session of the AJK Legislative assembly held in connection with Youm e Estehsal in the State metropolis late Saturday, the PM, while referring to the highly provocative statement by an Indian minister, made it clear to India that any attempt of infringing the AJK's territorial integrity would be responded to with full force.

The PM said that India should take a lesson from recent history when an Indian Air Force jet violated our airspace in 2019. He said that the whole world witnessed what happened in the aftermath and how the Indian warplane was downed by the PAF. "If India attempts to repeat the mistake, then India will get a befitting reply on its own soil", the PM said. "So long as the custodians of Kashmir's freedom movement are alive, the caravan of the freedom movement will continue to march towards its destination", the PM said.

ICRC honors King Fahd's enduring legacy advancing Islamic unity, education

ISLAMABAD (APP): The International Consortium for Religious Diplomacy (ICRC), a non-profitable organization, on Sunday, marked the 18th death anniversary of King Fahd bin Abdulaziz Al Saud highlighting his remarkable achievements in serving the Ummah and leaving a lasting impact on the Muslim world. Born on March 16, 1921, in Riyadh, former King Fahd, a revered leader, ascended to the throne of Saudi Arabia on June 13, 1982 till 2005, leading the nation into an era of unparalleled progress and prosperity.

Addressing the event virtually from Riyadh, Saudi embassy's Press Attaché Dr. Naif Al-Otaibi said King Fahd was a visionary ruler who understood the importance of unity among Muslim nations and worked tirelessly to strengthen ties between them.

Shedding light on one of King Fahd's most significant contributions in fostering Islamic solidarity through the establishment of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), now known as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.



ISLAMABAD: large numbers of people are arrive to enjoying at Lake view Park during Sunday Holiday in Federal Capital.

Marri grieved over loss of precious lives in train accident

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister of Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri has expressed her heartfelt sorrow over the loss of human lives in the Hazara Express accident.

In a message issued here, the federal minister prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the train accident.

She assured that the government will leave no stone unturned in the treatment of the injured.

The government will ensure that such incidents do not happen in the future through an inquiry into the incident and taking further safety measures, she said.

Former MPA Javed Hakeem passed away in London

LONDON (Online): Javed Hakeem Qureshi, founder member of Pakistan People Party and former MPA of PPP from Rawalpindi, passed away in London after illness. According to details, Javed Hakeem Qureshi became the President of PPP Rawalpindi in 1970 and He was elected MPA from Rawalpindi in the same capacity.

The deceased was associated with journalism and education. During the Zia-ul-Haq era, he went into exile and settled in London and established an education system there. Ghazal Faisal, daughter of Javed Hakeem Qureshi, said that the deceased's burial will be in London. Javed Hakeem Qureshi was also the President of Rawalpindi Press Club in the 1960s.

4 members of criminal gangs arrested; cash, valuables recovered

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police Nilore and Phulgran police team have arrested four wanted members of two criminal gangs involved in numerous criminal activities and recovered cash, mobile phones and weapons with ammunition from their possession, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPo), the Islamabad Capital Police had categorically started a crackdown against criminal elements, in order to save the precious lives and property of citizens.

Following these directions, a Nilore police team used technical and human resources and succeeded in apprehending two wanted members of a dacoit gang involved in numerous dacoity activities.



RAWALPINDI: President Ex-Servicemen Society Rtd Gen Abdul Qayyum Abdul Qayyum addressing during a ceremony title Pakistan Day.

Chairman PTI's arrest is reward for actions: Ghafoor Hydari

JACOBABAD (Online): Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam said arrest of Chairman PTI is reward of his actions, upcoming elections should be conducted under the constitution.

Workers should prepare for general elections, he said these things in a meeting with the delegation led by Ameer of JUI Jacobabad Dr. AG Ansari.

Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haidari said that Chairman PTI's misbehavior with the country and the people cannot be found in history.

Further he said JUI has buried the Jewish agent and his agenda, the future is of those who serve the country, Islam and humanity. He maintained that the workers should make exten-

sive preparations for the general elections in the country, carry the message of JUI from door to door and actively participate in the membership drive of JUI.

The upcoming elections will be held under the constitution, the workers will prepare for the general elections. On this occasion, Balochistan Assembly Opposition Leader Advocate Malik Sikander Khan, Central Majlis Shura Member Maulana Abdullah Jatak, Central Ruyat Hilal Committee Member Haji Abal Malik Brohi, District Council Alhaj Saeed Rahnawaz Chachar, Mufti Abdul Shakur Kahosa, Qari Kifayatullah Kahosa, Mohammad Kakar, Engineer Hamadullah Ansari, Abdullah Abbas, Mujahid Mir Hasan Barro.

Rivers Indus, Sutlej continue to flow in low flood: FFC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Flood Commission (FFC) has said currently Rivers Indus in Guddu-Sukkur reach and Sutlej in Sulemanki - Islam reach are experiencing low flood. According to daily FFC report on Sunday, rest of the major rivers of Indus River System (Jhelum, Chenab & Ravi) are discharging normal flows. Present Combined Live Storage of major reservoirs (Tarbella, Chashma & Mangla) is 12.367 MAF i.e. 92% of the total value of 13.443 MAF.