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Army urges all stakeholders to play role in revival of economy

COAS invites foreign investors to explore hidden reserves of Pakistan; Says there are vast mining opportunities in our country which will be realized through joint efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday said the Pakistan government, along with state institutions, had ensured the establishment of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), in order to bring the stakeholders at one platform.

Addressing the Pakistan Mineral Summit, he said it had laid down new rules for 'ease of doing business' for domestic and foreign investors in the country.

"We will ensure an investor-friendly system that avoids unnecessary delays and provides easy terms and conditions for business. There are vast mining opportunities in our country which will be realized through joint efforts," he added.

The Army Chief thanked the foreign delegates and investors for participating in the moot, which was the first such event in the country. He also thanked Barrick Gold Corporation CEO and President Mark Bristow and Saudi Mining Minister Engineer Khalid bin Saleh Al Madfar and other investors.

He stressed persistence for staying on the path of peace and prosperity and said the mineral-related projects were the stepping stone, which would eventually lead towards the development of the masses.

Referring to natural resources of the country, he said: "Just look at your country, from the snow-capped mountains to the vastness of the deserts, from the coastline to the plains. What else is not there in this land?"

He said: "In Surah Rahman, Allah the Exalted has said: And which of the favors of your Lord will you deny?"



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Malaysia, Syed Ahsan Raza Shah, calls on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Alvi emphasizes exploring new trade opportunities with Malaysia

ISLAMABAD (Online): President Arif Alvi has said Pakistan desires to further improve bilateral cooperation with Malaysia in the areas of trade, economy, education and culture.

Talking to Pakistan's High Commissioner designate to Malaysia Syed Ahsan Raza Shah in Islamabad, the President emphasized for fostering linkages with the Malaysian business community and Chambers of Commerce.

The President said efforts should be made to further enhance Pakistan's exports to Malaysia through value added products.

President Arif Alvi said Malaysian entrepreneurs should benefit from the investment friendly policies of Pakistan.

The President asked the High Commissioner to work for facilitation and welfare of the Pakistani workforce in Malaysia besides making efforts to further strengthen and diversify Pakistan-Malaysia bilateral relations.



ISLAMABAD: UN Resident Coordinator to Pakistan, Julien Harnais calls on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House.

Maulana Fazl says: There are 26 intelligence institutions in the country, where they have gone

ISLAMABAD (Online): JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said can you assure me that state can protect my life or otherwise.

"Can you give me assurance that state can protect my life or otherwise. Or will they collect tax from me and not protect my life Our party is party of peace. I will say to workers not to abandon the patience, he said this while reacting strongly to the incident of attack on workers convention here Tuesday.

He went on to say are our state institutions left for only this job of bringing a poor moulti to police station and allege him that has any one taken meal or taken tea with him.

Meeting of JUI-F markazi majlis-e-Shoora has been summoned in the prevailing situation. But proposal has come to summon tribal elders Jirga.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif along with COAS General Syed Asim Munir and Foreign Dignitaries attends Pakistan Mineral Summit as Chief Guest.

War no more remains an option Ready to talk to neighbours on serious matters: PM

Our neighbors should understand to live with peace; Says we did injustice with Pakistan, poor people during last 75 years; Underlines need to learn from past, explore precious natural resources properly

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif has said we have to go ahead by learning lesson from past mistakes.

"Coal is one among the largest coal projects in world. Reko diq project is of special importance in the history of the country. We have to move forward by learning lesson from past mistakes. We have to convert the speeches into action. We have to work for the development of the country. War no more remains an option.

NAB kept on subjecting the people to political victimization, he held.

He remarked the society has divided unfortunately. Poison has been poured into minds of people.

Can any work be done for the development of country in this situation, he questioned.

Its answer is "No", he added.

We did not focus on the precious wealth of our country in the last 75 years. Were we hesitant due to some cartel or political reason.

He underlined we should work for public interest and against the poverty.

Today is a propitious day, he said adding nature has bestowed natural resources worth trillion dollars on Pakistan. We did not pay attention to natural wealth during the last 75 years.

Interior minister will also inaugurate machine readable passport system for Pakistanis settled in Iraq in Pakistan embassy in Iraq.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjani exchanging views with Eng. Khalid Saleh Almodaifer, Vice Minister of Industry and Production of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during meeting held in Islamabad.

Trying times for masses as govt goes for Rs20 hike in fuel prices

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal government has dropped bombshell on the people with jacking up price of petrol by Rs 19.95 per liter. With the recent increase, the price of petrol per liter has escalated to Rs 272.95 per liter.

Finance Minister (FM) Ishaq Dar announced the hike in prices of petroleum products.

FM said following the upturn in the prices of petrol the price of petrol will come to Rs 272.95. The price of high speed diesel has been scaled up by Rs 19.90 per liter and new price of high speed diesel will stand at Rs 273.40 per liter.

FM said the prices of petroleum products will take effect immediately.

FM said the prices of petroleum products were to be determined on previous night. The price of crude oil has gone up in international market.

Consultation in this regard was made with Prime Minister and it was decided to pass on minimum possible burden to the masses.

We are in agreement with IMF, he added therefore we cannot make such decision which lands the country in difficult situation.

Interior minister will also inaugurate machine readable passport system for Pakistanis settled in Iraq in Pakistan embassy in Iraq.

Trial of civilians in military courts SC to announce decision about full court bench today

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has reserved judgment on whether full court will hear the case of trial of civilians in military courts or otherwise. The petitions filed against hearing of trial of civilian in military courts came up for hearing before a six members bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial here Tuesday.

During the hearing of the case, Faisal Siddiqui, counsel for former CJP Jawad S Khawaja demanded for formation of full court.

Faisal Siddiqui argued when there is fear of clash between the institutions then full court should be constituted.

The CJP remarked how can we constitute full court when some judges don't want to hear the case.

The lawyer said as per court's order when some judge refused to hear the case then he cannot be asked again to hear the case.

However during the hearing Suleman Akram Raja counsel for petitioners, Abid Zuberi counsel for SC Bar, Shoaib Shaheen counsel for chairman PII and Aitzaz Ahsan opposed the constitution of full court.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Prince Ahmed Umer Ahmedzai, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Communications presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

Diplomacy on track with extensive global engagements: FM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday said that through extensive engagement with the international community, Pakistan achieved substantially on the diplomatic front during the past fifteen months.

Addressing a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after launching 'Digitised system under Foreign Minister's Change Management Reforms', the foreign minister said that through intensive engagements with the international community, they could now claim "diplomacy is back".

It was also an appropriate response to those who were touting about Pakistan being isolated at the global level, he added.

The foreign minister said that due to consistent global engagements under his stewardship, and with the countries in the Middle East, the United States, China, and other members of the United Nations, they had increased Pakistan's outreach and viewpoint on different issues, leading to success at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) after the country was removed from the grey list and climate change issue.



He said during the floods last year and afterward, in the post-flood scenario, the international community came to support Pakistan in the relief and rehabilitation efforts.

The UN General Assembly members focused on Pakistan during the relief efforts and subsequently, they successfully arranged the Climate Resilient Pakistan summit in Geneva receiving "a substantive and qualitative response".

Foreign Minister Bilawal, to a media query, reiterated that Pakistan was not keen to join the 'blocc policy' and would take decisions in the larger national interests.

Pakistan had stressed upon resolution of all world issues through dialogue and diplomacy, he added.

Govt raised petroleum prices ignoring 'political cost': Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Tuesday said the incumbent government had responsibly managed the agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and taken decisions to raise petroleum product prices ignoring "political cost".

On the contrary, the previous regime violated the agreement with the IMF just for political gains, she said while addressing a news conference after inauguration of the Foreign Media Digital Wall of Digital Electronic Media Unit here at the Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications.

"The government's tenure will end in a few days, but we have prioritized the state over politics.

In contrast, Imran Khan, who was certain about end of his government, subsidized petroleum products and violated the IMF agreement which inflicted massive damage to economy," she maintained.

The minister said that the present coalition government did not take decisions for petty political advantages, rather the same were made in the larger national interest.

She said about 15 months ago the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and allied parties decided to save the country (from the clutches of an inefficient ruler).

"Today we can hold our heads high and say that the government took the decisions for the stability of the country's economy," she maintained.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin ul Haque witnesses the MOU Signing Ceremony for the Establishment of the Health Incubator and Science Technology Park at the ICCBS between Ministry IT and Telecommunication ICCBS University of Karachi.

OIC expresses grave concern over rising Islamophobia

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) expressed grave concern over the despicable acts of desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark. The 18th Extraordinary Meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers (CFM) of the OIC adopted a comprehensive resolution expressing grave concern over increasing incidents of intolerance, discrimination, and rising Islamophobia, a statement from the Foreign Office said.

It reaffirmed the importance of the 8-point action plan unanimously agreed upon by the UN Human Rights Council to counter incitement to hatred, discrimination, stigmatisation, and violence based on religion and belief.

It also called on all governments to fully implement the existing legal and administrative framework or adopt new legislation to protect all individuals against hatred and violence based on religion and belief.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Climate adaptation

For Pakistan, searing heatwaves, severe squalls, hunger and displacement make climate change a hot topic. The country, with record temperatures and rainfall, is in unmapped territory as climate crises add more complexity to life and livelihood. Despite contributing under 1pc of global greenhouse gas emissions, it is in the midst of a perfect storm as one of the most intensely affected areas. So, extreme weather — last year's floods in Sindh and Punjab and the current Balochistan, Sindh and Punjab tumult — is merely a foretaste of the punishing seasons ahead. Studies provide ominous conclusions: glacier loss, landslides, frequent saturation, droughts and acute heat. Perhaps, last week's National Adaptation Plan from the Ministry of Climate Change, if put into practice with sincerity, can provide some respite from the elements. The document states: "Effective DRM [disaster risk management] requires enhancing the stability, adaptability, recovery capacity, and sustainability of all relevant sectors. This entails a meticulous process of identifying vulnerabilities... Subsequently, implementing sectoral adaptation strategies to mitigate these risks while fortifying the overall resilience of system and service provision is paramount." It also scans the more intricate aspects, such as health, imperilled by "heat stress", disease, lack of amenities, as well as the blow to reproductive well-being: "It is important to stress that the adverse effects of climate change are not experienced equally by the population; women, the poor and landless are particularly impacted. Women are disproportionately vulnerable because their socioeconomic status is not equal to that of men..."

A policy shift from impact and cause to adaptation and precaution is our burning need. Poverty, displacement, poor sustenance, damaged cropland, unsafe water, pollution, and other factors have increased mortality and morbidity rates. Little surprise then, that Pakistan is ranked 99th out of 121 countries on the Global Hunger Index, and "with a score of 26.1", its hunger level is grievous. Also, it was fortunate that Cyclone Biparjoy, which caused brutal hot spells, dust storms and cloudbursts in southern Sindh, did not hit Pakistan, or else a frail municipal administration and scarce logistical provisions would have been swept away. It does not help that recent research claims the hottest summer so far may be "the coolest one left" and that the UN chief has called this "the era of global boiling". For these crucial reasons, all dispensations must treat climate vulnerability as a national emergency; investment should pour into drainage systems, dams, waterways, warning mechanisms, and pre-disaster management. Moreover, flooding dangers can be cut down with reforestation and preservation of green cover, including mangroves. An adaptation strategy cannot be set in motion without superlative human-centric climate management systems and manpower. We can avoid the worst if policymakers hit the ground running. The sun has to sustain not near life.



Navaira Ali Bangash

Three years ago, in 2020, GLOBOCAN, the global platform for cancer statistics, cited 10,538 new cases of lung cancer in Pakistan, making it the third most common cancer in the country after breast and oral cavity cancer. While two regional cancer registries, including the Karachi Cancer Registry (KCR) and Punjab Cancer Registry, are a substantial source of data related to lung cancer, the figures don't give a precise picture since there is no central population-based cancer registry.

Each year, World Lung Cancer Day is observed on Aug 1. Interestingly, a decline has been noted in the incidence of lung cancer worldwide by 2.2 to 2.3 per cent a year — in men since the mid-1980s though only since the mid-2000s in women. The explanation for this difference lies in the difference in historical patterns of smoking uptake and cessation between men and women.

A similar trend is noted in the Pakistani population as well. The biggest driving force behind the worldwide decline in the use of tobacco products is the constant nudging by medical experts and others. Pakistan's Ministry of National Health Services and Regulations has implemented the WHO guidelines of pictorial health warnings on cigarette packaging to be "50pc or more of the principal display areas". There has also been a surge of anti-smoking and anti-tobacco campaigns. The recent heavy taxation on cigarettes has

also proved a deterrent.

While smoking is the greatest risk factor for lung cancer and responsible for 80pc of lung cancer deaths, the disease can also occur in non-smokers. People who have never smoked account for 20pc of lung cancer deaths. Radon exposure is the second major reason. Other risk factors include the use of multiple forms of combustible tobacco such as cigars, pipes, water pipes (hookahs or shishas). Many water pipe users assume this to be less toxic than cigarette, though this may deliver the same or even higher level of toxins.

Despite the efforts to discourage them, 19.1pc of adults aged 15-plus use tobacco in Pakistan, while a significant percentage of non-smokers are affected by second-hand smoke in public transport and offices. People are not only becoming immune to the government's repeated health warnings in digital and print media, they are also enraged at the recent price increase in tobacco products. Smoking to relieve stress is a common excuse, especially in lower-income groups. Strong lobbying by the tobacco industry that calls the efforts of anti-tobacco organisations 'hoologanism' and the 'spread of misinformation' also encourages tobacco users.

Meanwhile, lung cancer in Pakistan has caused an enormous financial burden. While the health sector tries to cope, waiting lists of patients are long, especially in government-funded radiotherapy units. What is perturbing is these facilities are reserved for the urban areas and patients in the rural areas are sometimes never even diagnosed, let alone treated for their condition.

Another recent challenge is the fast-growing trend of vaping in Paki-

stan. The culture was initially limited to a specific socioeconomic class. But with growing demand and competition among vape shops, these fruitily-flavoured brightly coloured vials are now available in most places. These devices aerosolise the e-liquid that typically contains nicotine salts. Though the connection between vaping and lung cancer is still unexplored and a lot of research is needed on the subject, the hazards of vaping lie in its being a gateway to the use of combustible tobacco am-ong those who would otherwise have been non-smokers.

Many research articles show that adolescents and young adults using e-cigarettes and vape are more likely than non-users to consume combustible tobacco. Unfortunately, many misinformed smokers switch to vaping while trying to discontinue smoking, assuming this to be a 'healthier' alternative. To date, no e-cigarette or vape is FDA-approved as a cessation aid, and should not be used to quit smoking. Users should not go on to smoke cigarettes and stop using these aids too; former smokers using e-cigarettes should not revert to smoking.

Health is precious. In times, where people are increasingly being afflicted by idiopathic health conditions, practices should be adopted for a healthier and safer lifestyle, with the government stepping up policymaking to regulate the mushroom growth of cessation aids, too. Traditional policies that are in place to discourage smoking need to be revisited, preferably backed by research, to factor in newer trends so that the population can be discouraged from practices that lead to potentially serious and sometimes fatal diseases such as lung cancer. -- Courtesy Dawn



Rashad Bukhari

In 2018, seven-year-old Zainab of Kasur was murdered after being raped. According to some reports, she had been tortured horribly before death.

How could a human have been so savage and beastly?

Feelings of outrage and revenge rightly arose. A post on social media went viral, "I demand that Zainab's killer be cut into pieces and dissolved in acid...". Many on TV agreed that the murderer should be hanged seven times in public and his body strung up in the marketplace so that people would draw a lesson and no other brutal person would think of such an act in the future. Her murderer, 24-year-old serial killer Imran Ali, was arrested and executed later that year.

However, there is no let-up and in fact an increase in cases of rape, child sexual abuse, and murder. In 2021, 5,200 rapes were reported in the country, according to the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. Another report from a private TV investigation unit claims that as many as 21,900 women were reported to have been raped in the country from 2017 to 2021. This meant that around 12 women were raped across the country daily, or one woman every two hours.

The intensity of the emotions that poured forth in the Zainab case, and subsequently, in other instances of rape and/or murder, as seen in the Noor Mukadam case, with demands for justice is understand-

able. The louder the voice of the aching heart for the oppressed, the better. But on the other hand, is it possible to end violence with violence? Does punishing criminals after severely torturing them stop crime? Can any social reform be possible by creating fear and terror? Criminal justice researchers say that not only are harsher punishments unsuccessful in preventing crime they may, in fact, have the opposite effect. Emeritus professor of law, University of New South Wales, David Brown claims that "harsher punishments that both aim for general deterrence — that is to deter the population at large — and specific deterrence to deter the individual, from re-offending in future is unfounded."

It is generally assumed that harsher and more painful punishment, especially meted out in public, can ensure a decrease in crime. This assumption may appear valid to some extent, but often the evidence does not support it. Crime rates are often lower in countries where the death penalty is banned. In fact, contrary to what many people may think, crime did not increase after capital punishment was banned in many countries such as Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Switzerland, as well as a few states in the US, while in countries where there is a practice of administering harsh, gruesome and public punishments, the crime rate has not decreased. Every harsh punishment followed by another crime of the same type is proof that the criminal mind does not think as it is supposed to. China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Yemen are among the countries that carry out the highest number of death sentences in the world.

In Pakistan in the 1980s, during the rule of military dictator Gen Ziaul Haq, a few executions were carried out in public in front of thousands of people. But that hardly had a deterrent effect on the rate and nature of crime. Brutal punishments do not stop brutal criminals. Crime reduction has to do with ensuring just punishment, and not harsher punishments. Meanwhile, justice that is not even handed destroys trust in the justice system. Societies are built on the edifice of justice, not revenge.

Another aspect of harsh public punishments that is more worrisome is their impact on the individual and society. If the state here was to cave in to pressure for public punishments, it would normalise the scenes of violence and agonising death; the whole idea of punishment would lose its deterring effect and would leave society brutalised and ready to accept public executions as a way of life. This in itself can lead to an increase in violence which would also be mainstreamed. Secondly, the scenes stick to the minds, especially of young people, and can leave some permanently traumatised in a way that it becomes difficult for them to lead a normal life. There is a difference between revenge and justice. The delivery of justice is not possible in the raging currents of emotions. State decisions are made with a cool heart and mind per the basic requirements of the law, and considering the best interest and best future of the country and the people living here. Our demand should be that criminals should be brought to justice as soon as possible, but God save the nation from becoming mentally ill in the process. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM says: SIFC to ensure uninterrupted execution of foreign investment projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would ensure the immediate and uninterrupted completion of the projects of foreign investment in Pakistan.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a Saudi delegation led by Saudi Deputy Minister for Mining, Industries and Minerals Khaled bin Saleh Al-Mudaifer, said there existed immense investment opportunities in Pakistan, particularly in the mining sector. Welcoming the delegation, the prime minister said Pakistan was thankful to the Saudi government and

people for supporting Pakistan in every need of the hour.

"Pakistan is your second home. The brotherly relations between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia were of special significance. The whole Pakistani nation was grateful to Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for supporting Pakistan in every difficult time," he remarked.

The prime minister assured the delegation that not only the interim government but also the next elected government would keep on facilitating the investors. He said the solar power project of 10,000 megawatts announced by

the government was also a good opportunity for investment.

The Saudi minister said that the establishment of SIFC was a positive message to foreign investors in Pakistan. Saudi Arabia was keen to invest in the vast opportunities of investment in the mining sector of Pakistan, he added.

The Saudi minister appreciated the prime minister for the pro-investor measures particularly the establishment of the SIFC as it would lead to economic development.

Calling Pakistan his second home, the Saudi minister assured that Saudi Arabia would continue to support Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: A Saudi delegation led by Vice Minister for Mining Affairs, Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources KSA, Khaled Saleh Al-Mudaifer calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Sovereign Wealth Fund established to promote investment in mining, agriculture, IT sectors: Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Terming the mining sector one of the key drivers of economy, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Tuesday said the government had established Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund to exploit potential of mining, agriculture and information technology.

"These are the future drivers of growth. Mines and minerals, and IT would be mainly focused in years to come for the country, no matter who is in governance," the minister said while addressing the Pakistan Minerals Summit titled

"Dust to Development: Investment Opportunities in Pakistan". He said the government was taking serious measures to facilitate investors and exploit the country's resources.

He said the draft legislation for establishing the fund, which was more acceptable globally, had been tabled in the National Assembly and would be moved in the Senate on Wednesday.

Egypt and Indonesia, which were facing a turbulent situation like Pakistan, had established the fund and were doing well, he added.

The finance minister asserted that Pakistan was an asset-solvent country. In the mineral sector only, it had the potential of around \$6 trillion and the one thing that needed was the financial management, he added.

He said the goal of government initiatives was to attract investors to exploit the potential of the assets. He said sub-funds would be created under the main fund which could include agriculture, green revolution, minerals and mining. He said the investors would have the choice whether they were interested in sovereign wealth fund.

Tanveer for using modern techniques to increase cotton production

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Industry and Energy SM Tanveer emphasized the need to implement modern technology and China-style model to increase cotton per acre yield. He was presiding over a meeting through video link regarding cotton production and growth strategy at Circuit House, Multan.

In the meeting, Secretary Agriculture, Punjab Itikhar Ali Sahoo, Secretary Agriculture, South

Punjab Saqib Ali, Vice Chancellor MNS Agriculture University, Multan Dr. Asif Ali, Deputy Director Agriculture Information, Punjab Naveed Asmat Kahlon along with progressive farmers Khalid Khokhar, Syed Hasan Raza, representative of APMA Dr. Javed, and other officers including Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Bandisha participated while Director General Agriculture Extension Dr. Muhammad Anjum Ali also participated online.

FCCI welcomes appointment of Malik Amjad as Chairman FBR

FAISALABAD (APP): Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI) President Dr. Khurram Tariq has welcomed the appointment of Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, a senior officer of the Inland Revenue Service, as new Chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

He will replace Asim Ahmed who has retired on July 30th on attaining the age of superannuation.

FBR collects Rs 538b net revenue in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) on Tuesday announced collecting Rs 538 billion net revenue during the month of July 2023 despite all the economic challenges faced by the country, posting a robust 16.6 percent growth as compared to the corresponding month of the last year.

"As against the set target of Rs. 534 billion, net revenue of Rs. 538 billion has been collected,

despite issuance of refunds amounting to Rs. 49 Billion," said a press release issued here.

The direct taxes continued showing a remarkable growth of 30 percent during July 2023 whereas Inland Revenue taxes has shown a healthy growth of 18 percent as compared to July 2022, and "The FBR team is optimistic with regard to sustaining this growth pattern for rest of the year."

Dollar fluctuates

KARACHI (Online): Dollar continued to fall in Inter-bank market.

Value of dollar continued to fluctuate in Inter-bank on first day of business week.

The value of dollar increased marginally at the end of business.

Dollar closed at RS 286.64 with an increase of 19 paisa.

A decline in value of dollar in Inter-bank is being witnessed during business on Tuesday and value of dollar has decreased by 39 paisa.

Ahsan inaugurates 3 centers of excellence

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal inaugurated three centers of excellence have been started which include National Center for Manufacturing (NCM), National Center for Quantum Computing (NCQC) and National Center for Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (NCNN).

Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal was the chief guest at the launching ceremony.

Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani, Secretary

of Ministry of Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Vice Chancellors of Universities and senior officials of various ministries participated in the ceremony.

These centers would be established in different universities in Pakistan. Among them are National Center for Quantum Computing Lahore University of Management Sciences Lahore, Ghulam Ishaq Khan Institute of Engineering Sciences and Technology University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi and Institute of Computer Science, University of Engineering and Technology Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar addressed the closing session of Pakistan Minerals Summit "Dust to Development: Investment opportunities in Pakistan".

Remote eye surgery trial uses 5G robot in China

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center at the Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China has achieved a milestone in the field of ophthalmic surgery by completing the world's first remote, micron-level surgery on rabbits using an independently developed 5G robot.

The surgeries took place on June 23 on rabbits at the centre in Guangzhou, the capital of Guangdong province, with the surgical team operating the robot from the Hainan Eye Hospital at the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center in Haikou, capital of Hainan province.

The trial was led by Professor Lin Haotian's team, and all 12 rabbits operated on are in stable condition after a month of observation.

According to Lin, who is the director of the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center, the breakthrough will help accelerate remote medicine in China, and elevate the country's medical devices and equipment to world-leading levels. It will also contribute to the development of national medical standards, China Daily reported.

Lin said that this achievement has far-reaching implications in addressing the imbalance in the development of ophthalmology and the uneven distribution of top-notch medical resources across the country.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Hidayat Ullah, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Aviation presiding over a meeting of the committee at Ministry of Aviation.

Governor chairs meeting to discuss education related matters of Edwards College

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Haji Ghulam Ali here Tuesday chaired a meeting that was convened to discuss matters related to further improve education standards in historic educational institution, Edwards College Peshawar.

The meeting was also attended by caretaker ministers including Justice Retired Irshad Qaisar and Abdul Haleem Qasuria, Bishop Diocese Peshawar, Humphrey Sarfaraz Peter, Legal Advisor, Ishaq Ali and concerned officials.

The meeting discussed measures to improve educational standards in the college allowing the executive committee of the college to work for the improvement of historic educational institutions. Participants also decided to convene the Board of Governor to complete the consultation.

Construction of the college building according to the cantonment board approved plan and formation of a construction committee was also discussed and it was decided that two construction experts should be included in the committee.

Addressing the meeting, Governor recalled the past glory of Edwards College and desired to make it a university adding that all the needed legal formalities would be completed for the purpose. He assured to co-operation to resolve the problems of the college and said that we play our part to revive the educational standard for the sake of students.

He said that all the available resources would be utilized for the improvement of the educational institution and said that no compromise would be made on the quality of education in Edwards College.

Bishop Diocese of Peshawar lauded the efforts of the Governor to improve the education standard in the college and assured to make joint efforts for the betterment of Edwards College.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali presiding over a meeting regarding academic and administrative affairs of Edwards College

Govt taking measures to ensure mother, child health: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram on Tuesday said that specific measures were being taken to ensure the health of mother and child in the province.

He expressed these views while addressing as a special guest in the seminar organized in connection with the World Breastfeeding Week at the University of Child Health Sciences here.

The minister said that a national level awareness campaign should be conducted regarding breastfeeding. "We will convince the Cabinet to legislate on breastfeeding," he added. He advised that mothers should start breastfeeding to their newborn shortly after birth until the age of six months. Mother's milk was essential for the good development of the child, he added.

Dr. Javed Akram said that daycare centers should be established in every institution for the convenience of women. In this regard, a comprehensive meeting was held with UNICEF yesterday, he informed.

The minister congratulated the University of Child Health Sciences and various stakeholders for organizing the seminar. He also distributed commemorative shields among the vice chancellor and other guests on this occasion.

JUI Chief visits LRH, inquires after health of Bajaur blast victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman Tuesday visited Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar and enquired after the health of Bajaur blast victims. He prayed for early recovery of injured and extended cooperation to families of blast victims. He said we would not discourage and budge from resolve by these acts of cowardice. JUI Chief said that our party would not be deterred by these acts that are meant to disrupt peace and serenity in the country. He said we praised the composure of party workers who remained calm despite facing the tragedy.



LAHORE: Federal Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar, MNAs and former provincial ministers meeting with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman

PDWP approves seven developmental schemes

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Development Working Party (PDWP) approved seven development schemes of the various sectors with an estimated cost of Rs 2201.593 million. These schemes were approved in the 8th PDWP meeting of current financial year 2023-24 presided over by P&D Board Secretary Sohail Anwar. The approved development schemes include: Development of a Controlled Access Corridor Facility from Niazi Interchange to Babu Sabu Interchange, Lahore at the cost of Rs 10842.253 million.

Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) in Tehsil Alipur Lot-2 at the cost of Rs 2280.402 million. Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) in Tehsil Kahror Pakka at the cost of Rs 1454.447 million. Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) Pilot Phase: Cluster North Tehsil Kallar Kahar Lot-2 at the cost of Rs 3518.178 million.

Cluster North Tehsil Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) Pilot Phase: Cluster North Tehsil Noorpur Thal Lot-3 at the cost of Rs 1323.092 million. Punjab Rural Sustainable Water Supply and Sanitation Project (PRSWSSP) Pilot Phase: Cluster Central-II Pakpattan. Package-5, 5 Nos. Revenue Villages: (Chak 93-D, Chak 15-SP, Chak 16-SP, Chak 23-SP, Chak 2-KB) at the cost of Rs 1270.360 million. Development of Road from Amra to Sahana Lok Length 10.25 km, (Phase-I, approx. Length=6 Km), District M.B Din (Revised) at the cost Rs 1322.861 million.

Two more PTI leaders join PTI Parl.

PESHAWAR (APP): Two more party leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday left the party and announced to join Perver Khattak's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentarian. Core Committee member and Provincial Information Secretary of PTI Riaz Khan and former candidate Tehsil Shah Alam had announced the joining of Parvez Khattak's group. They would formally join PTI Parliamentarian during the inauguration of its provincial secretariat in the city.

AJK PM felicitates students for securing first three positions in exams

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Azad Jammu Kashmir Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq on Tuesday extended his heartfelt felicitations to three meritorious girl students hailing from Bhimber, AJK, who secured the first three positions in the recently announced annual results by Azad Jammu Kashmir Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Mirpur for 10th-grade students.

Prime Minister Chaudhry Anwar-ul-Haq, in his congratulatory message, praised the top position holders' hard work, dedication and outstanding performance in the annual examinations.

He also appreciated the parents' valuable contribution, endless struggle and commitment to enable their children to achieve their goals.

Congratulating all the students who passed the matriculation examination, the AJK PM asked the successful students to make hard work their motto and devote their full time.

Asad Mahmood visits CMH inquires Bajaur blast victims

PESHAWAR (APP): Federal Minister for Communications Maulana Asad Mahmood visited Combined Military Hospital (CMH) here on Monday and inquired Bajaur blast victims in JUIF's public meeting.

Federal Minister Maulana Asad Mahmood, made a visit to the injured victims, expressing his deep grief and sorrow and offering prayers for their speedy recovery.

During his visit, Maulana Asad assured the injured that every possible assistance and support would be provided for their recovery process.

He emphasized the resilience of the workers and the unwavering commitment of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) to continue their democratic struggle in the face of such cowardly acts.

Maulana Asad Mahmood condemned the tragic incident, stating that the heinous attack has targeted not just JUIF, but also Pakistan's peace and security.

He asserted that such malicious acts would not deter JUIF's resolve to uphold the values of democracy and peaceful coexistence in the country.

Asad Mahmood said that the incident has deeply saddened and shocked the nation. He praised the courage and determination of the workers, reiterating that no cowardly act could obstruct JUIF's path towards a democratic and prosperous Pakistan.

Jamal directs to suspend Director Labour over anti-dengue negligence

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to issue the suspension orders of the Director Labour Department, Rawalpindi over his negligence from duty.

Presiding over a meeting to review anti-dengue arrangements along with Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaqat Ali Chatha, he said that dengue was a national issue and no negligence would be tolerated in this regard. The minister directed the allied departments to ensure their performance satisfactory up to 100 per cent during the next two weeks else strict action would be taken against them. Taking notice of the fake entries, he directed to issue show cause notices to those involved in the bogus activities reports.

Dr Jamal Nasir further directed the Chief Executive Officer of Rawalpindi Waste Management Company to spray insecticides daily in 3,400 garbage bins placed across the city.

International News

China's Xi calls for combat readiness as PLA marks founding anniversary

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: After months of intensified and increasingly ambitious drills to project power, Chinese President Xi Jinping, speaking ahead of Tuesday's 96th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), told China's armed forces to speed up modernisation.

In his address, Xi said the military must broaden its combat capability and readiness, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"We need to push for new equipment and new forces to accelerate forming combat capabilities and integrate into the combat system," Xi told the Peoples Liberation Army Air Force's western theatre command during a visit last Wednesday, Xinhua reported on Sunday.

Marking the anniversary on Tuesday, an editorial in the official PLA Daily newspaper said the military had "enhanced its ability to carry out diversified military tasks in a wider space".

China has flaunted its military might this year, ramping up military manoeuvres and drills, signalling that its third and most advanced aircraft carrier will soon start sea trials, and tightening its military relationship with Russia.

Some analysts say that the moves reflect China's perception of increased external threats from the United States and its allies, and that Beijing is flexing its military muscle to send political messages.

"The reason is simple: the world is not peaceful and the external environment that China faces continues to deteriorate," said Chinese military analyst Song Zhongping, noting the increasing intensity and frequency of Chinese drills.

The US is also expanding regional deployments and tightening ties with longstanding allies and newer friends - sparking calls from Chinese officials that Washington should steer clear of China's coasts if dialogue between the two militaries is to resume.

Drew Thompson, visiting senior research fellow at National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, told Reuters that China's drills represent more of a political message than a military one.

"Everything the PLA (People's Liberation Army) does is inherently political," Thompson said. "When the Chinese military conducts an exercise, it is showing force - it is bestowing or sending a message to other countries."



Rescuers work at a site of a building damaged by a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv, Ukraine.

US general says allies key to countering China in Pacific

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: The United States will rely on allies rather than a major expansion of its own forces to counter any Chinese military risk in the Pacific, a US general has said.

Beijing enjoys "very clear" advantages in the region, said Major General Joseph Ryan, commander of the 12,000-strong 25th Infantry Division on Oahu, Hawaii.

He cited China's expanding military defences, its long-range rocket missile capability and the ease with which it can position forces and equipment in the Pacific.

By contrast, in the event of conflict, the United States and its allies would have to traverse international waters or the territories of powerful nations, requiring their permission as well as the mobilisation of air, land and sea transport. "I don't see a major expansion of US military presence in the region."

Head of Lebanon's Hezbollah urges halt to Palestinian camp clashes

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The head of powerful armed group Hezbollah called on Tuesday for a halt to days of deadly clashes that have raged between rival factions in the Palestinian camp of Ain el-Hilweh in southern Lebanon.

At least 11 people - most of them militants - have been killed in the camp since fighting broke out on Saturday between mainstream faction Fatah and hardline Islamists, security sources in the camp told Reuters.

"This fighting must not continue because its repercussions are bad - for the camp's residents, for the dear Palestinian people... for the south, for all of Lebanon," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address.

The United Nations agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) said at least 2,000 people have fled their homes in the camp and UNRWA activities were suspended due to the violence. Negotiations between the rival factions have led to brief suspensions of fighting but have failed to secure a lasting ceasefire, with heavy clashes resuming on Tuesday.

Hezbollah, which controls southern Lebanon and is vehemently opposed to Israel, has ties to Palestinian factions and supports their cause.



Communal clashes in Nuh, Haryana, during VHP procession. Anjuman Masjid set ablaze; 3 injured, 1 deceased, 2 home guards killed, dozen cops injured.

At least 20 dead and 27 missing in floods surrounding China's capital Beijing, thousands evacuated

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Days of unusually heavy rains around China's capital, Beijing, have flooded houses, torn apart roads and left at least 20 people dead and 27 missing, state media reported Tuesday.

The flooding prompted authorities to close train stations and evacuate people in vulnerable areas to school gyms. Cars were washed away and piled into stacks by the rushing waters.

The level of rainfall is rarely seen in Beijing, which generally enjoys moderate, dry summers but has experienced record-breaking extended days of high temperatures this summer. Flooding in other parts of northern China that rarely see such large amounts of rain have led to scores of deaths.

Seasonal flooding hits large parts of China every summer, particularly in the semitropical south, while some northern regions this year have reported the worst floods in 50 years.

Indonesia buys drones worth \$300m from Turkish Aerospace

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: Indonesia has bought 12 new drones from Turkish Aerospace worth \$300 million, its defence ministry said on Tuesday, the latest in a series of purchases aimed at modernising the country's ageing military equipment. The deal comes after Indonesian President Joko Widodo in July warned his cabinet to maintain a "healthy" budget as he highlighted outsized spending by the country's security agencies, including the defence ministry.

The \$3.9 billion UN humanitarian appeal for Ukraine is only 30% funded, UN aid official says

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The \$3.9 billion humanitarian appeal for war-torn Ukraine is less than 30% funded as the country starts preparing for a second winter with more residential buildings damaged and destroyed and thousands of people homeless following the collapse of the Kakhovka dam, the country's UN humanitarian coordinator said Monday.

Denise Brown told a virtual news conference from Kyiv that 17 million Ukrainians need aid and the U.N. is targeting between 11 million and 12 million - but funding is becoming a serious issue.

A report last week from the U.N. humanitarian office said lack of funding "is hampering operations, adding to the challenges imposed by insecurity and other obstacles."

Spain to evacuate more than 70 citizens from Niger

Monitoring Desk
MADRID: The Spanish government is preparing to evacuate more than 70 Spaniards in Niger by air after the military seized power in West African country, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

A foreign ministry spokesperson declined to provide further details about the operation, such as whether Spain would send its own aircraft, citing security concerns.

At least 5 killed in Hindu-Muslim clashes in India's Haryana state

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: At least five people, including two police personnel, were killed in clashes between Hindus and Muslims in India's Haryana state, neighbouring capital New Delhi, on Monday, police officials told Reuters.

The violence erupted when a Hindu religious procession passed through the Muslim-dominated Nuh region, located around 50 kilometres away from New Delhi.

"The procession was meant to move from one temple to another but clashes broke out between two groups on the way, which resulted in the death of four people," Krishan Kumar, spokesperson of Nuh police, told Reuters.

PM visits Peshawar; briefed on investigation into Khar attack, anti-terror efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday visited Peshawar where he was briefed about the overall security situation in the province with a focus on the Khar suicide blast and the status of ongoing investigations.

Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir also accompanied the prime minister, a PM Office statement said.

The prime minister was apprised of the counter-terrorism efforts being undertaken to dismantle the terrorists' network by disrupting the linkages between planners, executors, and abettors.

Prime Minister Shehbaz noted with concern the involvement of the Afghan citizens in the suicide blasts and liberty of action available to the elements hostile to Pakistan in planning and executing such cowardly attacks on innocent civilians from the sanctuaries across the border.

"Interim Afghan government should undertake concrete measures towards denying its soil to be used for transnational terrorism", the prime minister emphasised.

He also appreciated the emergency efforts undertaken by the army in the evacuation of wounded personnel from Khar to Peshawar, saving many lives.

The prime minister and COAS also visited the wounded personnel under treatment at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and inquired about their health.

The prime minister instructed the authorities concerned to extend the best possible healthcare services to the wounded patients until their full recovery.

While interacting with the bereaved family members of the victims of Khar suicide blast, Prime Minister Shehbaz assured them that the entire nation stood with them in that hour of grief and shared the burden of their losses.

"These cowardly attacks by terrorists cannot weaken our resolve to eradicate the menace of terrorism from Pakistan. Security forces and law enforcement agencies with the support of the nation will ensure that those responsible for the dastardly attacks are brought to justice as soon as possible", he remarked.

Earlier on arrival, the prime minister and COAS were received by Commander of Peshawar Corps.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday telephoned Governor of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali and expressed condolence over deaths in the recent suicide attack in Bajaur district.

The president conveyed his condolences to the KP governor and the people of the province over the loss of precious lives.

Talking to the governor, the president said Islam did not allow such heinous acts as well as terrorist attacks.

He said the people of KP province had rendered immense sacrifices against terrorism.

He reiterated that the elimination of terrorism and extremism from the country was inevitable.

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Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir visiting those injured in Khaar (Bajaur) suicide blast in CMH Peshawar

Reiterates resolve against terrorism President phones KP governor to condole deaths in Bajaur blast

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Vice PM China left for home

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chinese Vice Prime Minister (PM) He Lifeng has left for China after completing 3 days visit to Pakistan.

Federal Minister for Planning and Development and special measures Professor Ahsan Iqbal sent off distinguished guest.

The visit of Chinese Vice PM to Pakistan was also featured on Commemorative album.

Chinese vice PM He Lifeng met with President of State and Prime Minister (PM) during his visit.

He also participated in organized events regarding 10 years completion of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

PM, Naval Chief discuss matters pertaining to Pak Navy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Amjad Khan Niazi called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in Islamabad on Tuesday. Detailed discussion on professional matters pertaining to Pakistan Navy came under discussion.

The Naval Chief apprised the Prime Minister about the strategy of preparing weapons and warships for the Pakistan Navy at the local level.

He also informed the Prime Minister about ongoing measures to make Pakistan self-reliant in terms of defence and acquisition of modern technology.

NA passes three govt., other private members' bills

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Assembly on Tuesday took up legislative business and passed three government bills as well as other legislative proposals sponsored by a private member. The House transacted the government business on private members' day after passage of the motion while private members' agenda was also taken up in routine.

Moved by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi, the House passed a motion to suspend the rules for immediate consideration of the Official Secrets (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The House passed the bill after the Chair directed to circulate the copies of the bill among the lawmakers.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the bill, it is imperative to amend the official Secrets Act 1923 and make it more effective in view of the changing social milieu to ensure safety and security of official documents.

The Toshakhana Management and Regulation Bill 2023 passed by the house today envisaged that the existing and future gifts to be received in Toshakhana shall be disposed of through an open auction. The proceeds of such an auction shall be kept in a separate account and will be utilized for promoting female primary education in the most backward areas of the country. Three private members' bills passed by the House included the Promotion and Protection of Gandhara Culture Authority Bill, 2023; the Margalla International University Bill, 2023 and the Tar International Institute Bill, 2023.

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ISLAMABAD: Chief of Naval Staff Amjad Khan Niazi calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Reko Diq Project: Pakistan, Barrick Gold agree to pay share in Pakistani rupees

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan and Barrick Gold Corporation for the investment in Reko Diq project have agreed to pay the share of the government of Pakistan in Pakistani rupees.

The two sides reached the agreement during a meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and a delegation of Barrick Gold Corporation, which called on him in Islamabad on Tuesday.

The Barrick Gold Corporation's delegation was led by its Chief Executive Officer Mark Bristow. He briefed the Prime Minister about the progress on the ongoing development work at Reko Diq.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said participation of international companies including Barrick Gold in the "Pakistan Mineral Summit" is manifestation of the restoration of confidence of international investors in Pakistan. He said the success of the Mineral Summit and the restoration of the confidence of international companies like Barrick Gold in Pakistan become possible by the launch of the Special

Investment Facilitation Council. The prime minister said the Reko Diq project will be a game changer for the development of Balochistan and the region and will usher in a new era of development of the province and prosperity of its people.

He also directed all the authorities concerned to fulfill their responsibility in implementation of the project.

Shehbaz Sharif was briefed that a Community Development Committee has been constituted Reko Diq to identify possible initiatives on priority basis for the development and prosperity of the people of Balochistan.

It was further briefed that local elders who are part of the committee identify the projects for the development of the local people themselves.

The prime minister was informed that employment opportunities are being provided to the talented local people of Balochistan in Reko Diq project and a significant amount from the investment will also be spent on the development of local area.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Energy, Engr. Khurram Dastgir Khan held a meeting with Saudi delegation at the Pakistan Mineral Investment Summit including H.E. Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Commercial attaché and coordination staff.

On first anniversary President, PM pay tribute to army officers martyred in Lasbela helicopter crash

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday paid homage to Lt. General Sarfraz Ali and other five officials of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in a helicopter crash during flood relief operations in Lasbela a year ago.

"I fondly remember Lt. Gen Sarfraz Ali Shaheed on his Barsi (death anniversary) today. He was an outstanding officer in all my interactions with him," the president wrote on social media.

He prayed to Allah Almighty to grant Lt. General Sarfraz Ali and others who were martyred in the cause of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan the highest place in paradise.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday, calling them the pride of the nation, paid tribute to Lt. Gen Sarfraz Ali and five officers of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in a helicopter crash in Lasbela

On a microblogging site, the prime minister wrote that one year had lapsed since the day Lt. Gen Sarfraz Ali and five officers and men were martyred while performing their duty.

He said the entire nation, including he himself, paid homage to the great sons of the soil who lost their lives in the Lasbela helicopter crash.

"History is a witness that whether it is a fight against an enemy who sees the country with a narrow eye, elimination of the scourge of terrorism or the natural calamities, they never hesitated to sacrifice their blood whenever the nation called its soldiers in the need of the hour."

He said Lieutenant General Sarfraz and the officers, who were martyred along with him, were the pride of nation. "The nation will never forget their sacrifice," he remarked.

Fawad submits written apology to election commission

ISLAMABAD (Online): Fawad Chaudhry has filed written apology in Election Commission (EC) in contempt of EC case.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has remarked EC will decide after seeing the written apology.

The contempt of EC case came up for hearing before a five members bench of EC presided over by CEC Tuesday.

Fawad Chaudhry appeared before EC. Faisal Chudry counsel for Fawad Chaudhry filed written apology in EC.

Member Commission inquired can chiding any one be policy of party.

Fawad Chaudhry replied there was such environment prevailing in the country that it had become incomprehensible we would go where in bitterness.

CEC remarked you have put first three lines of written apology conditional.

Imran records his statement in Tasha Khana criminal case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Imran Khan Niazi on Tuesday recorded his statement under section-342 before the trial court in Tashakhana criminal case after which further hearing was adjourned till August 2 (tomorrow).

District and Sessions Judge Hamayun Dilawar heard the criminal case wherein former prime minister Imran Khan appeared before the court amid fool-proof security.

At the outset of the hearing, Imran Khan recorded his statement before the judge against 35 questions provided by the trial

court. The judge inquired whether the accused was satisfied with his answers, and to this Imran Khan answered affirmation.

As the hearing began, the judge asked the former prime minister if he was going to read the questions and he (Imran Khan) could answer if he wanted.

In his statement, the former prime minister said that he had not heard the statements of the complainant as these were not recorded in his presence. He said that even the charges against him were not read in his presence.

18 Corona cases reported in last 24 hours: NIH

ISLAMABAD (APP): Health officials on Tuesday said that 18 new Coronavirus cases were reported during the last 24 hours across the country.

As per the data shared by the National Institute of Health (NIH), the case positivity ratio was 0.24 percent while one patient was in critical condition. One death was reported from the Coronavirus in the last 24 hours while 7,358 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. He added over 90 percent of the country's population already got the Covid-19 vaccine.

Delegation of under training ANF officers visits Safe City I'abad

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a delegation of under training ANF officer and faculty members visited Safe City Islamabad, where they were received

vention and protection of citizens' lives and property. He further informed the delegation that Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCP) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, after as-



by SSP Safe City, a police public relations officer said.

He said that, following the special directions of CPO Safe City/Traffic, the SSP Safe City along with his team welcomed the delegation and briefed them about the Centralized System, Command and Control Center, data hub unit, and the functioning and benefits of modern technology.

SSP Safe City also briefed the delegation that the Safe City Islamabad is playing a vital role in various sections, including the Police Operations Center, Emergency Control Center, Dispatch Control Center, E-Challan System, and the "Pukar-15" helpline.

He said that safe city Islamabad's modern technology-enabled cameras are playing a crucial role in the city's security, crime pre-

suming office, extended the coverage of the Safe City Project to different areas of the city and installed 900 more cameras on the special interest and orders of the Federal Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah Khan.

The Safe City services have been integrated with important commercial centers, buildings, metro bus stations, shopping malls, and private housing societies across the city, he added.

SSP Safe City further said that facial recognition cameras have been installed on the city's entry and exit points, which play a significant role in identifying suspicious elements. The SSP Safe City presented an honorary shield to the delegation. The delegation appreciated the successful visit and expressed special thanks to the CPO Safe City/Traffic.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Human Rights, Riaz Hussain Pirzada along with National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) Chairperson Nilofar Bakhtia in a group photo with participants' during closing ceremony of Pakistan Framework on Digitization and Women.

CPEC to boost largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan: Sharmila

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) senior leader Sharmila Faruqi Tuesday said that the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would attract the largest foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

"The project will play an important role in facilitating the development of the country's economy and in creating millions of new jobs in coming years," she added. Under CPEC, the two countries initiated and completed multiple projects including energy, transport infrastructure, port, airport development, and digital connectivity, she said while talking to a private news channel.

"Under Phase II of CPEC, both countries will now further expand cooperation to new areas including rural revitalization, agricultural development, industrialization, green development, and science and technology," she mentioned.

"The friendship of both countries is going to prosper further in the com-

ing years," she said.

"CPEC is a game changer for the economic and social development of the region." It was unfortunate that work on this important project of economic and social development was stalled by the previous government of PTI, she regretted.

Sharmila highlighted that the Chi-na was a time-tested and trusted friend of Pakistan who had supported Pakistan in difficult times. Replying to a question, she said that PPP was the first government that had initiated the multi-billion dollar project CPEC but some elements started negative propaganda against the project but failed to scare our future Chinese partners. To another question, she appreciated that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was playing a leading role in reviving the foreign policy of Pakistan which was ruined by past governments and he represented the young Pakistani talent in the field of global diplomacy.

Two police cops deputed on polio team's security gunned down in Quetta

QUETTA: Two personnel of police deputed on security of the anti-polio team were gunned down in the jurisdiction of Zarghoonabad police station on Tuesday.

According to the police sources, the anti-polio team comprising male and female health workers and volunteers were busy in administering anti-polio vaccine to the children in Killi Shah Alam area near Nawan Killi under police protection.

All of sudden some unknown armed men appeared on the scene and opened indiscriminate fire on the police personnel guarding the anti-polio workers there.

As a result, two police sepoy sustained serious bullet injuries and thus succumbed to them before they were provided any medical aid. In the meantime, the police and rescue teams reached the spot and shifted the bodies of deceased police cops to the civil hospital.

Compensation, plots already given to owners of land acquired for G-14: NA told

ISLAMABAD (INP): Parliamentary Secretary for Housing and Works Syed Mehmood Shah on Tuesday informed the National Assembly that compensation and plots had already been given in 2005 to residents/owners of 4880 kanals land acquired in sub-sectors 1 and 2 of sectors G-14.

Replying to a Calling Attention notice raised by Qadir Khan Mandokhel and others regarding nonpayment of compensation to residents/owners as per current market rates for

build-up properties (BUPs) after fresh assessment of residential units constructed there, he said compensation of land and buildings/houses were paid to the residents in 2005 and 2009 respectively as per then market rates.

Later, under the decision of the federal cabinet, plots were also given to them, he added. Some of them also file a writ in the court of law but the court had decided that very high compensation had been paid to the residents/owners of the land, he added.

IHC removes objections on PTI chairman's petition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday removed the objections of the registrar and fixed the case for hearing, filed by the PTI Chairman challenging FIA inquiry in a matter of cipher.

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the petition along with the objections raised by the registrar's office. Sardar Latif Khosa said that an objection had been raised against the petition stating that a similar case was already pending. The previous petition was pertaining to the bail, he said. Sardar Latif Khosa argued that the matter of cipher couldn't be raised as the prime minister had immunity under Article 248 of the constitution. Chairman PTI had appeared before the FIA and was interrogated for three hours but the same day one more notice was served.



GILGIT: FWO workers busy in clearing block area of Juglote-Skardu road after land sliding during rain in city.