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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. "Thar 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. Pakistan is a nuclear power. But this power is not meant to use against any other. Our neighbors should understand to live with peace. Meaningful talks should be held for addressing the problems, he said this while addressing the inaugural session of "Pakistan Minerals Summit" in Islamabad Tuesday.

ing 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.

Where we hesitated 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

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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and COAS General Syed Asim Munir witnessing the signing of MoUs for increasing foreign investment in the mining industry of Pakistan during Pakistan Mineral Summit.

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".

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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. The enhanced price 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.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Barrick Gold led by CEO Mark Bristow calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

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.

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President Xi China to work with Pakistan to build CPEC into exemplary project of BRI

BEIJING (APP): Chinese President Xi Jinping has said that China will work with Pakistan to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) into an exemplary project of the Belt and Road Initiative to achieve sustainable development for a shared future in the new era.

Xi made these remarks in a congratulatory message to the Decade of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor celebration event held in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Xi pointed out that CPEC is an important pioneering project of the Belt and Road Cooperation. Since its launch in 2013, China and Pakistan have been advancing CPEC under the principle of extensive consultation, joint contribution, and shared benefits, and have achieved a number of early harvests.

Reko Diq project to prove a game changer; usher a new era of progress: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday said that Reko Diq project would prove to be a game changer for the development of Balochistan and region besides ushering a new era of progress and prosperity.

The prime minister, talking to a delegation of Barrick Gold led by CEO Mark Bristow which called on him, said Pakistan was rich with immense resources of minerals. The government was taking measures on priority to take maximum advantage of the said resources, he added.

According to a PM Office statement, the Barrick Gold agreed to make the payment of Pakistan's share of investment in Pakistani rupees.

The prime minister said the participation of Barrick Gold and other in

Amjad Zubair appointed as new FBR chairman

ISLAMABAD: The federal government on Tuesday appointed Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, a grade-21 officer of the Inland Revenue Service (IRS), as the new chairman of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR).

The notification has been issued after approval of his name by the federal cabinet through the circulation of the summary. He has replaced Asim Ahmed, who retired from the service after reaching the age of superannuation on July 30.

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

Minister Home slams firing on police cops; seeks report

INDEPENDENT REPORT
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 Nawab 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.

Meanwhile the Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has strongly condemned the incident of firing on police personnel deputed on security of the anti-polio campaign in Quetta.

In a condemnation statement issued here on Tuesday, the Provincial Minister sought report of the incident from the concerned authorities.



QUETTA: A delegation of Young Nurses Association (YNA) led by its President, Irshad Baloch meeting with Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Only 950 nurses against need of 6,000: Governor calls for preparing a comprehensive strategy to meet shortage of nurses

INDEPENDENT REPORT
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized that it is responsibility of the government to prepare a comprehensive strategy to fulfill the shortage of staff nurses in the province.

He was speaking to a delegation of Young Nurses Association (YNA) who called on him under leadership of its President, Irshad

Baloch here on Tuesday.

The Governor on the occasion paid tributes to the doctors, nurses and paramedics for serving the ailing humanity. He, however, noted with concern that at present only 950 nurses are busy in serving the people all over Balochistan while there is need of some 6,000 nurses.

He was also concerned that the nurses have been recruited at the division

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 busi-

ness. 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 Madifar 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 de-

velopment 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?"

The Army Chief noted: "If the nation has professed commitment, then the sky is the limit and its vastness awaits us."

He specifically referred to the Holy Qur'an: "Allah helps those who help themselves".

CM condemns firing at police cops on polio duty: Bizenjo vows to ensure healthy future of children through total eradication of polio

INDEPENDENT REPORT

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has strongly condemned the incident of firing on the police cops deputed on security of the anti-polio campaign in Quetta suburb and expressed grief and sorrow over the martyrdom of two of them in the incident.

However, he expressed the government's resolve to ensure healthy future of our children through the complete eradication of polio from the province despite the incident of firing is a wicked conspiracy against healthy future of the chil-

dren.

In a condemnation issued here soon after the firing incident in Zarghoonabad polio jurisdiction on Tuesday afternoon, the Chief Minister sought report of the firing incident from the concerned authorities.

He said that the anti-state elements want to foil the anti-polio campaign for their nefarious designs.

He pledged to fail the negative propaganda against the polio campaign and nefarious designs of the anti-social elements.

The Chief Minister directed the Inspector Gen

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

Mauana Fazl says:

There are 26 intelligence institutions in the country, where they have gone

ISLAMABAD (Online): JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said you can 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 bring-

ing a poor moulti to police station and allege him that has any one taken meal or taken tea with him. Are they holding only these capabilities.

He underlined that as many as 26 intelligence institutions are operating in the country. Where have they disappeared.

Sectarian violence was fomented in Kurram Agency some time earlier. The entire Pushtoon belt is burning. Baloch belch is burning. Wave of riots is not coming to end upto Karachi. The entire nation is looking towards state institutions that they are paid for what, he underlined.



QUETTA: In light of meeting of Chief Secretary Balochistan, Deputy Commissioner Quetta Shehak Baloch presiding over a meeting regarding steps taken during flood situation

Three MoUs signed during Pakistan Minerals Summit

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Minerals Summit was held here on Tuesday to discuss and find the best way forward towards exploring Pakistan's minerals potential.

Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif was chief guest while Chief of the Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir was the guest of honour.

Curated under the theme of "Dust to Development: Investment Opportunities in Pakistan", the event was jointly organized by the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) and Barrick Gold Corporation and facilitated by the Ministry of Petroleum.

Also attended by the relevant federal and provin-

cial ministers, foreign dignitaries, investors and technical experts, the summit managed to bring specialists, leaders of the industry and many stakeholders from public and private entities on one platform.

The day-long event was divided into four sessions, comprising four individual addresses, four panel discussions, one keynote speech and special addresses by the prime minister and the army chief.

"As a nation, Pakistan has always exhibited resilience and hope and with such initiatives, I can see the hope becoming a reality. We need to build a stronger narrative for a better future and the mineral wealth of Pakistan is a great opportunity for us to make

our mark in the global economy. SIFC is an excellent step that can help Pakistan optimize the opportunities for Foreign Direct Investment", the prime minister said in his address.

The COAS shared his vision for the changing landscape of the mining industry in Pakistan and emphasized upon the catalytic role of the SIFC. "Difficult times are a test of resilience of a Nation. Through cohesion, steadfastness and optimism we will overcome prevailing challenges", the army chief remarked.

The event concluded with the signing of three 'Memorandum of Understanding' which assured opportunities for foreign investment in the mining industry of Pakistan.

Interior minister leaves for Iraq on 4-day visit

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah along with delegation of Ulema has left for Iraq on 4 days visit.

During his visit he will meet Iraqi interior minister, president and prime minister. Every year million of pilgrims travel to Iraq and they have to face difficulties in connection with their stay therein and acquisition of visa. Last year these problems had created crisis like situation.

These matters will be discussed with Iraqi government and an agreement will also be executed in this regard.

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



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



QUETTA: A delegation of Noshki led by District Chairman Noshki Mir Muhammad Ali Mengal meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

Karandaaz Pakistan, NIBAF join hands to empower education system in GB

GILGIT (APP): Karandaaz Pakistan and NIBAF State Bank of Pakistan have come together to sign a Letter of Understanding (LoU) with an objective to empower the education system in Gilgit Baltistan (GB).

The agreement aimed to train 3000 Government Primary School teachers in GB.

Upon the request of the GB government, Karandaaz Pakistan has taken on the responsibility to sponsor a series of comprehensive training sessions for primary

school teachers.

In the initial phase, the curriculum will be implemented for grades 1 to 5 in all primary schools and all the teachers of the respective schools will get training to teach the curriculum. Subsequently, in the second phase, it will extend to grades 6 to 12.

To commemorate this collaboration, the Chief Secretary of GB graced the virtual ceremony on Zoom and conveyed his best wishes for the successful execution of this commendable project.

NA passes resolution to ensure minimum wage to employees

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Assembly on Tuesday passed a resolution urging the government to take immediate steps to ensure payment of minimum wage to the employees in public and private institutions.

The resolution was moved by Aliya Kamran. The House also passed a resolution recommending the government to rename Gwadar International Airport as Feroz Khan Noon saying it will be a tribute to the former Prime Minister. The resolution was moved by Rana Qasim Noon.

The National Assembly also passed the Official Secrets Amendment Bill 2023 and Toshakhana Management and Regulation Bill 2023. These were moved by Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Murtaza Javed Abbasi.

Bizenjo vows to...

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eral of Police to mobilize all available resources to arrest the culprits involved in the firing incident and killing of police cops.

Earlier, in his message issued here on commencement of the anti-polio campaign in Balochistan on Tuesday, the Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed his government's determination to fully eradicate the polio from the province.

He noted with contentment that we have made it to reach close to the target of complete eradication of the polio virus in the province, and would achieve the of making Balochistan polio-free province.

Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo said that the aim of anti-polio campaign is to save our new generation from the physical disability.

He insisted that the role of religious leaders, media and civil society is crucial about the anti-polio campaign.

He also directed to the concerned high ups to provide complete protection to the anti-polio teams engaged in the campaign.

Japanese govt hosts Pakistan Investment Seminar to foster bilateral trade ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Government of Japan, in collaboration with the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), on Tuesday held a significant Pakistan Investment Seminar in Tokyo as part of ongoing efforts to foster international trade and investment ties between both countries.

The seminar was inaugurated by Executive Vice President of JETRO Kazuya Nakajo, who emphasized the strategic importance of enhancing economic cooperation and exploring synergies between the two nations.

Ambassador of Pakistan Raza Bashir Tarar made welcome remarks.

Minister of the Board of Investment Ch. Salik Hussain, in his keynote address, articulated the positive trajectory of economic relations and outlined the prospects for future collaboration and investment between Japan and Pakistan.

Detailed presentations and discussions followed, covering macro-economic conditions in Pakistan and the operational insights of Japanese companies within the country.

A representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) elaborated on investment opportunities and incentives available in Pakistan.

Second polio case reported from Bannu

ISLAMABAD (APP): In the second case this year, a three-year-old boy has been paralysed by wild poliovirus in Bannu, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The child had an onset of paralysis on 11 July. The case was confirmed by the Pakistan National Polio Laboratory at the National Institute of Health, Islamabad on Tuesday.

This is the second polio case from Bannu.

"Another child in Bannu has been paralyzed by wild poliovirus. This three-year-old child will live with disabilities for the rest of his life because of a virus that is entirely preventable, which is truly tragic," said Federal Health

Minister Abdul Qadir Patel.

He added, "Pakistan is in a much better position to combat polio than it was a year ago after the outbreak in North Waziristan last April."

"Our children deserve a life free from this incurable disease."

Endemic wild polio transmission remains restricted to seven districts in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, namely North Waziristan, South Waziristan Upper, South Waziristan Lower, DI Khan, Bannu, Tank and Lakki Marwat, while in other part of Pakistan no child has been paralyzed by polio since 2021, despite

the virus being periodically detected in sewage samples.

"Parents do not realize that every time they refuse vaccination, they are exposing their children to lifelong disabilities. There is a huge cost to vaccine refusal," said Federal Health Secretary Iftekhar Shallwani.

Dr Shahzad Baig, the Coordinator for the National Emergency Operations Centre, said a campaign will begin in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa next week and urged parents to ensure vaccination.

"Over the past year, Bannu had remained a cause for concern, with the persistent detection of the virus in the environment."

Govt focusing on country's youth future: Ahsan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning Development and Special Initiative Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said that the government was focusing to uplift the future of country's skillful youth.

Talking to a PTV news channel, he said the government was committed to refining the skills of the youngsters by training them with new computer technologies.

So that every youth could handle the digital economy which must be given the right direction by giving them such opportunities so that they can contribute to the country's development, he said.

Ahsan informed that, "A grant ranging from Rs5-20 million to promote innovation and entrepreneurship in the country."

Youth to utilize their capabilities for the country's development through innovative ideas, besides promoting the culture of entrepreneurship to create more employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled workforce in the country.

He said the laptop scheme would again start very soon for the university students.

garding the execution of Reko Diq project.

The meeting was told that a Community Development Committee had been formed in the Reko Diq which identified actions for uplift of Balochistan and its people.

It was told that the local elders in the committee identified the projects aimed at the prosperity of the people of Balochistan.

Under the project, the skilled local people were being provided employment opportunities and a huge amount would be spent on development of the area.

Minister of State for Petroleum Musaddik Malik and special assistants to PM Jahanzeb Khan and Tariq Bajwa, and relevant senior officers attended the meeting.

Reko Diq project to prove a...

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ternational firms in Pakistan Mineral Summit held earlier on the day manifested the revival of investors' confidence in Pakistan.

This revival of the investors' confidence including that of Barrick Gold in Pakistan was made possible consequent to the formation of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

In the meeting, Mark Bristow apprised the prime minister of progress in the ongoing development works in Reko Diq.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that the Reko Diq project agreement would prove to be beneficial for both the parties.

He instructed all the relevant institutions to fulfill their responsibilities re-



QUETTA: Vendor displaying national flags for attracting customers on the occasion of first August.

Govt raised petroleum....

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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.

When the present government came to power, Pakistan was on the verge of bankruptcy, she said, adding the inefficient and incompetent rulers of the past had brought the country on the brink of default for getting political mileage.

After taking the charge of office, she said, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif restarted talks to revive the suspended IMF programme to save the country's reputation. The present government not only removed the "economic mines" planted by the last regime, but put the country on the road of development.

The minister mentioned that there were various reasons for recent increase in the petroleum product prices, including global market fluctuations as well as commitments made to the IMF.

She said it would have been easy for the government to reduce petroleum prices for political gains, but priority was given to the economy and state.

The Chinese Vice Premier's visit to Pakistan showed confidence reposed

by the world in Pakistan under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, she added.

The minister criticized the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government's policies, highlighting surge in unemployment and poverty during its four-year stint which was marred by corruption and inefficiency.

She claimed that the PTI chairman was still busy in hatching conspiracies.

Mariyum said during the floods, the Federal Government provided ample assistance to all provinces and took every possible measure to help the affected people.

She said that during the past 15 months rule, many steps had been taken for transformation and upgrade of the Ministry of Information and its attached departments. The PTV virtual studios had been set up, besides launching of PTVflix, she added.

Similarly, she said, the entire archives of Radio Pakistan had been digitized with the completion of Rs 4 billion digital mondiale technology projects. Now Radio Pakistan's transmission would be listened in 55 countries, which was a historic step taken by the government.

Taking a jibe at the PTI regime, she said that they started a debate about the sale of assets and buildings of Radio Pakistan and Pakistan Television Corporation. Instead of raising slogans for getting cheap publicity, the present government in the short span of only 15 months took practical measures to improve the financial health of the two national institutions and their transformation through the introduction of the latest technology, she

Diplomacy on track....

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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".

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Foreign Minister Bilawal, to a media query, reiterated that Pakistan was not keen to join the 'blocs 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.

Responding to another question regarding terrorist organizations, he maintained that writ of the state would be established at all costs and the government would not take steps to appease the militant or terrorists outfits.

He said that he had suggested to the prime minister to convene an Apex Committee meeting to address the issue of terrorist and criminal incidents in the country.

He said that there was an increase in the terrorist incidents after the fall of Kabul. The latest arms and ammunition left behind by the foreign forces had fallen into the hands of terrorist outfits and criminal organizations, and even with the daocits which posed a challenge to the government, he added.

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years.

We did injustice to Pakistan during the last 75 years, he observed. We did injustice with its poor people and we did not pay their right to them.

APP adds: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday stressed the need to learn from the bitter experiences of past 75 years and move ahead with strenuous efforts, collaboration and dedication by exploring the untapped resources including the vast natural minerals and reserves and developing the agriculture, information technology and industrial sectors.

Addressing a 'Dust to Development' summit, the prime minister referred to keynote addresses of various speakers and said if these suggestions and proposals were translated into letter and spirit, he was convinced that the nation would find its lost place in the next few years through hard work and untiring efforts.

The PM regretted that the country's journey of 75 years was dotted with bitter factors as they could not fully exploit the precious natural deposits estimated at worth \$6 trillion.

"The day gives an opportunity to self-contemplation over a journey of last 75 years and the reasons due to which Pakistan landed into this situation with a begging bowl," he added.

Elaborating his viewpoint, he said with Russian support, Pakistan Steel Mills was established during the 70s while in Reko Diq a hefty penalty of \$10 billion was imposed on Pakistan and if it was enforced, the entire country's foreign reserves would have been depleted.

The prime minister referred to the 'Thar' coal mines reserves and said these were being converted

Ready to talk to neighbours....

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for the development of Pakistan.

Due to the working of certain cartels, he said the natural resources were not explored in the past and cited that financial and political reasons were also involved in the delay which required deep introspection.

The prime minister said the Chinot iron ores field belonged to the poor people of Pakistan, but it also showed another worst example of corruption.

He said without any bidding, it was handed over to an overseas Pakistani who had no business history, but when the matter was taken up by the subsequent government and landed in a court of law, it termed the entire matter as a manifestation of loot and plunder.

But later, he said, nothing happened as NAB could not arrest those who had been accused of plunder, adding that it was a heart-wrenching story.

The summit was attended by federal ministers, foreign delegates, ambassadors, Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir, experts, relevant authorities, and investors.

The prime minister further regretted that the previous governments should have dedicated themselves to the welfare of the poor people of Pakistan.

He also praised the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the financial support worth 2 billion dollars which also helped in reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

He said Pakistan and Saudi Arabia always stood together through thick and thin and supported each other at every forum.

The prime minister said that NAB, unfortunately, created fears and harassed the business community and bureaucrats in the past as it was used as a

tool for witch-hunting of political opponents.

He said the present government focused on building a strong nation.

He reiterated that Pakistan was keen to maintain friendly ties with all the countries for the mutual benefit of their people.

Without naming India, he maintained that they were ready to talk to their neighbors, if there were serious matters on the table as wars were no solution to issues.

The prime minister said three wars were imposed on Pakistan in the last 75 years and said these had generated more poverty and lack of resources which otherwise, had been spent on the development and prosperity of their people.

"The neighbours have to understand that unless abnormalities are removed, normalcy cannot take place and the serious issues should be addressed through serious discussions," he emphasized.

The prime minister said that the incumbent government would complete its term in the current month.

The society had been bitterly divided, he said, adding unless they show unity and discipline, they could not succeed in their efforts, he added.

The prime minister said the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was set up for the first time in the country including all the stakeholders that would collaborate and facilitate the execution of the development projects.

On the occasions, different speakers including foreign delegates also spoke on the occasion and highlighted the need for exploration of the natural resources of Pakistan by utilizing the latest technologies and offered different suggestions and proposals for facilitation to lure foreign investments.



FAISALABAD: Members of Master Sports Federation posing for a group photograph along with Chairman Pakistan Sports Board Ray Habib-Ur-Rehman before departure to Dubai in participant 8th International Games held in Dubai.

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 Sarfaraz 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 Sarfaraz 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 Sarfaraz 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 Sarfaraz Ali and five officers of the Pakistan Army who were martyred in a helicopter crash in Lasbela a year ago.

On a microblogging site, the prime minister wrote that one year had lapsed since the day Lt Gen Sarfaraz 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 souls 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 Sarfaraz and the officers, who were martyred along with him, were the pride of nation. "The nation will never forget their sacrifice," he remarked.



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 entrepre-

neurs 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.

Ghulam Azad says: 'August 5, 2019 darkest day in Kashmir history'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chairman of Peoples Political League, Ghulam Ahmed Azad, has said that August 5, 2019, is the darkest day in the history of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) when the Modi regime repealed Kashmir's special status and imposed a military siege in the territory.

According to Kashmir Media Service, Ghulam Ahmed Azad in a statement in Srinagar said the Hindutva rulers in India are conspiring to change the demography of the territory by accommodating non-state residents to transform Kashmir into a completely Hindu territory.

He said India's unjust, undemocratic and unconstitutional actions have affected every aspect of the lives of the Kashmiri people. Thousands of

Kashmiri youth, including Hurriyat activists, have been languishing in different jails of India and the territory, he lamented.

Ghulam Ahmed Azad said Jammu and Kashmir has now been turned into the biggest prison of the world, where millions of Indian forces have been deployed. The forces are protected under black laws like Public Safety Act (PSA) and Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), he added. He said there is lawlessness and jungle rule in occupied Jammu and Kashmir and the Indian forces are wreaking havoc on the Kashmiri people.

He maintained that despite Indian oppression, the morale of the Kashmiri people was high and the Kashmiri people were not going to accept the illegal domination of India in any case.

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.



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 Saudia Arabia to Pakistan, Commercial attaché and coordination staff.

Mariyum says: 1,000 KW DRM Digital Medium Wave Transmitter to revolutionize Radio Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Tuesday said 1,000 KW DRM Digital Medium Wave Transmitter project would transform Radio Pakistan by upgrading its capabilities to international standards.

The minister launched the 1,000 KW DRM Digital Medium Wave Transmitter in Rawat to increase its reach across the globe.

"This project is a major milestone in our mission to revolutionize Radio Pakistan, upgrade its capabilities to international stan-

dards, and improve the quality and reach of Radio Pakistan," the minister said in a tweet. Once installed and commissioned, she said, the new transmitter would increase the range of Radio Pakistan's broadcasts to several other countries.

She said the DRM technology would enable transmission of up to 4 different signals, increasing energy efficiency and reducing electricity consumption by 33 per cent resulting in cost-efficiencies for Radio Pakistan.

Radio Pakistan, she said, would be heard in 52 countries across the world

after completion of the project.

"I am also happy to announce that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has begun the work to also establish Pakistan's first media city in Rawat," she added.

The minister extended gratitude to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif for his leadership, guidance and support which made the project possible.

"I would also like to thank and acknowledge Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal for his support throughout the inception of the project," she added.

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

ISLAMABAD (INP): Parliamentary Secretary for Housing and Works Syed Mahmood 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 the 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.

Kashmiris urged to observe Aug 5 as Black Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): General Secretary, All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC) Moulvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani has said that Kashmiris will observe August 5 as a Black Day in Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) to send a clear message to India that New Delhi is an illegal occupier in the territory, and Kashmiris reject its illegal occupation of their homeland.

According to Kashmir media service, Moulvi Bashir Ahmad Irfani in a statement issued in Srinagar said August 5 is the blackest chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. It is a very painful and gruesome day when Modi government humiliated the entire humanity by snatching all the basic human, political, social and religious rights of Kashmiris.

He said that since August 5, 2019, the Modi government committed such barbaric atrocities on innocent Kashmiris that are unprecedented in history.

Irfani said that the worst crackdown on the media in the occupied territory is going on, and no one is allowed to report the atrocities of the Indian army.

Anyone who dares to report is imprisoned under black laws like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act. He said the Modi government is using notorious agencies NIA and SIA.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Morocco in Pakistan Mohammed Karmoune is shake hand with Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain cutting the cake during ceremony of 24th anniversary of the Accession to the throne of his majesty King Mohammed VI, at local hotel in Federal capital.

Sherry demands restoration of I'abad Airport name to Benazir Bhutto Int'l

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman on Tuesday demanded the government to restore the original name of the Islamabad Airport to Benazir Bhutto International Airport which was approved by the federal cabinet.

In a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Aviation, the federal minister said Airports were

named after great leaders around the world and there were many examples of it.

She regretted that the previous government had envisioned 'the licence Gate' and their so-called accusation alleged the national flag carrier PIA of corruption. "It was very difficult to restore the confidence of the pilots, their salary increase is justified. However, the salary of PIA grade 1 to 4 workers should also be increased."

Iranian Ambassador calls on NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (Online): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf stated that both Iran and Pakistan enjoy cordial ties based on enriched history of religious and cultural ties.

He further said that friendly ties between both countries are pivotal for regional peace and stability. He also emphasized on the need to transform these ties into trade relations.

He expressed these views during his meeting with Ambassador of Iran, Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, who called on him in Parliament House, today.

While appreciating the hospitality extended by Iranian people and its gov-

ernment for facilitating Pakistani visitors in Iran, he said that Pakistan and Iran both have vast opportunity of trade and economic cooperation. Speaker NA also stated that enhancing Inter-Parliamentary cooperation would further strengthen ties between both nations.

The Speaker expressed confidence and hope in the recently nominated Ambassador, while stating that he will bring both nations closer as he is a seasoned and experienced diplomat.

Iranian Ambassador strongly condemned the bomb blast in Khar, Bajaur Agency. He expressed grief and extended condolences to bereaved families.

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.

"An efficient system with a proper management team is fully functional in the country to remain vigilant and is ready to make an emergency plan to deal with any sub-variant of Covid-19," the minister added. He said the Border and Health Services Pakistan was ensuring the implementation of international health regulations.

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.

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 young Pakistani talent in the field of global diplomacy. Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari's visits in various countries had taken world leaders into confidence and his diplomatic efforts in a short span of time are appreciable, she hailed.

"CPEC is a game changer for the economic and social development of

both countries is going to prosper further in the coming years," she said.



ISLAMABAD: A vendor displaying national flags to attract customers at Koral Chowk.

Zahid directs Interior ministry to renew all old armed licenses

ISLAMABAD (Online): Deputy Speaker of National Assembly Zahid Akram Durrani on Tuesday directed the interior ministry to renew all old armed licenses irrespective of their dates of issuance.

Giving a ruling in response to points raised by Chaudhary Faqir Muhammad and Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah said the Speaker had set up a special committee of the House under his chairmanship. He said he raised the issue some 10 days ago in the House and convened a meeting today.

However, the meeting has to postpone due to the visit of the Chinese vice premier and now it would held tomorrow at 3:00 pm, he added.

He said the interior minister has assured that all pending licenses would be renewed. However, the licenses which were not renewed in the last five years would be renewed after imposing some fine, he added.

He also asked the Chairman of the House Special Committee on Arms Licenses to convene a meeting today and urged the members to attend it.

Earlier, speaking on

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

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

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-

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

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.

GB gov signs agreement with AKU, LUMS to improve education system

GILGIT (APP): Chief Secretary Gilgit Baltistan Muihudeen Wani Tuesday said the GB government took another step towards improving the education system by signing an agreement with Aga Khan University (AKU) LUMS, Karakoram International University (KIU), and Knowledge Platform.

He said the collaborative project '1000 Education Fellows' spans three years with a cost of Rs 2.19 billion, said an official statement. He said under this initiative, AKU and its partners will recruit, train, and deploy 1000 Education Fellows to government schools in GB, adding that Vice Provost of AKU, Dr. Anjum Hailai expressed confidence that this project.



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

PPP gov provides transport, housing facilities to people of Sindh: Sharjeel Memon

KARACHI (APP): Minister of Information, Transport and Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon on Tuesday said that the PPP's provincial government had launched two new routes of electric buses to provide travel facilities to the people of Karachi.

Addressing a press conference here at Archives Complex, Sharjeel Memon said the government had started a historic housing project across the province which will provide houses to 21 hundred thousand homeless people of the province.

He said PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah recently distributed documents among deserving people in Larkana.

Sharjeel said the PPP government also started

electric, metro and people's bus services across the province, including Karachi and Hyderabad, which provided travel facilities to the people.

He said documents of the housing schemes were distributed among people belonging to Jacobabad, Qambar-Shajsdkot, Dadu, Naushehro Feroze and Shikarpur while the same will be given to the people of district Khairpur on Wednesday.

The housing documents would be distributed among people of Badin, Shaheed Benazirabad, Matiari and Jamshoro in the coming days, the minister said.

He said the routes of newly launched electric buses will cover more than 50 kilometer distance from Malir Cant to Numaish and



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

Governor chairs meeting to discuss education related matters of Edwards College

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa, 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 Halem 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.

Amin says: MOITT to establish health incubation center, science technology park in KU

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Information Technology & Telecommunication Syed Amin UI Haque said on Tuesday that US \$7.1 billion investment had been made in the telecommunication sector in the country with earning of billions of rupees.

He was addressing the ceremony to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Health Incubator and Science & Technology Park at the ICCBS, Karachi University would be digitalized, and directed the Member IT and Chief Executive Officer of National Information Technology Board to coordinate with the university management in that regard.

He said that under the MoU, the Pakistan Software Export Board would establish the Health Incubator and Science & Technology Park at the ICCBS. "Our effort is to integrate information and communication technology and academia. The establishment of a health incubator in the university will greatly help medical start-ups, and that of a science and technology park will connect students to the digital world," he added.

The minister said the revolutionary steps taken by the incumbent government should have been done many decades ago.

He said the Pakistani youths had a unique position in the world in terms of their ability and competence. He said the MOITT through the Universal Service Fund spent Rs 77.8 billion on 83 projects to provide broadband services in the remote areas across Pakistan to facilitate the rural population as they could smoothly perform their work and connect to the digital world.

He further said due to the ministry's efforts, the smartphone manufacturing bill was passed by the Parliament and currently 28 companies, including Samsung and Nokia, were making mobile phones.

Amin UI Haque said the tech giant Google had opened its office in the country and provided 15,000 scholarships to Pakistani students last year and would provide 45,000 scholarships.

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.

Two more PTI leaders join PTI Parl.

PESHAWAR (APP): Two more party leaders of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf from Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa on Tuesday left the party and announced to join Pervez Khattak's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Parliamentary. Core Committee member and Provincial Information Secretary of PTI Riaz Khan and former candidate Tehsil Shah Alam had announced the joining of Pervez Khattak's group.

They would formally join PTI Parliamentary during the inauguration of its provincial secretariat in the city.



KARACHI: Activists of Progressive Youth Alliance hold a protest in favor of their demands outside press club in Provincial Capital.

Sindh gov takes measures to improve water supply, drainage in Karachi: Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi and Chairman Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Sindh government is taking measures on an emergency basis to improve the water supply and drainage system in the city.

The biggest project regarding the supply of fresh water to Karachi, "K4" is under construction. Insha Allah, the completion of this project will improve the water supply system in the city to a great extent and the problems of the citizens will end, he said this in a statement on Tuesday. Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that indiscriminate actions are being taken against illegal hydrants for fair distribution of water in all areas of Karachi, as a result of these actions against water thieves, water supply in the city is improving. He said that monitoring teams of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation are playing an active role to check and control water theft and we are trying our best to improve the water supply system across the city as soon as possible.

It should be built on the right lines soon, Mayor Karachi said that the PPP government is working on various projects to solve the water supply problems in Karachi, the aim of which is to provide water to the city according to its needs.

By continuously monitoring the water supply system, the provincial government is making arrangements in the city so that no one dares to make illegal connections to the main water line in the future and to discourage the hydrant mafia, he said.

He said that the trust that the citizens of Karachi have shown in us will be fulfilled in every way and any complaints of the citizens regarding water supply and drainage will be resolved.

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 22011.593 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 Kahr 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.

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.

Chief Economist, all members of the P&D Board, provincial secretaries and other senior representatives of the relevant provincial departments also attended the meeting.

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

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI), Moulana Fazal-ur-Rehman Tuesday visited Lady Reading Hospital Peshawar and enquired after the health of Bajaur blast injured. 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.

He said that JUI is a peaceful party that would abide by the norms of humanity in times of distress adding party workers would be helped and provided needed assistance.

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.

YDA presents charter of demands to LUMHS VC

HYDERABAD (APP): A delegation of the Young Doctors Association (YDA) held a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro, on Tuesday and presented their charter of demands.

The delegation led by YDA Sindh's President Dr Roshan Chandio, Dr Rakesh Nankani and Dr Fahad Pitafi, it put forward a set of 10 demands to the VC.

They called for paying arrears of up to 17 months' stipends to the postgraduate doctors and for releasing the third and fourth installments of the risk allowance for the PGs.

They urged the VC to allow the rotation of the PGs in other institutes so that they could expand their work experience.

The association underlined the need to immediately hand over the PG hostel in the varsity's premises in Jamshoro to the doctors and for renovating the PG hostel in Hyderabad.

The other demands include establishing cafeterias for doctors in Liaquat University Hospital Hyderabad and Jamshoro, library for doctors and providing adequate security at the LUH Hyderabad and Jamshoro.

Bilal murder case moved to session court, terrorism provisions abolished

LAHORE (Online): Anti-terrorism Court has removed terrorism provisions in case of murderous attack on PML-N leader Bilal Yasin and ordered to transfer it to Sessions court.

The suspects had filed an appeal against provisions of terrorism in Lahore High Court.

Provisions of terrorism have been removed from case on order of Lahore High Court.

Anti-terrorism Court administrator Judge Abher Gul Khan heard case of murderous attack on PML-N leader Bilal Yasin in which Malik Ishrat appeared on behalf of suspects.

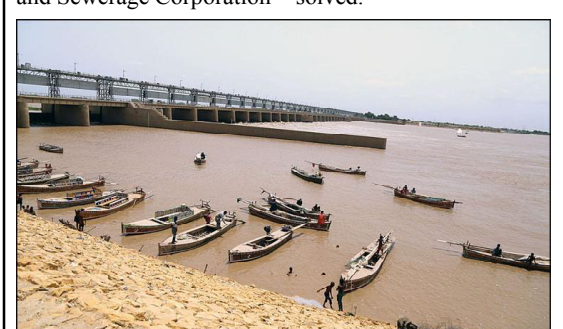
Others including suspects Mian Haseeb Wiki, Asad Hamid, Hamid Mehmood, Mohsin Manzoor, Maruf Ali and Zulfiqar appeared in court.

The hired killers Majid and Qasid alias Kashi involved in case were also presented in the court from Jail.

During hearing lawyers of suspects said that our appeal to remove provisions of terrorism from case was pending in Lahore High Court which has been approved. Datta Darbar Police Station Challan against suspects has been presented in Court.



ABBOTTABAD: View of site after traffic accident of jeep that fell down due to over speeding and break failed, at Link road located on Bakote area of Abbottabad.



HYDERABAD: Floodwater passing through at Indus river while fishermen parked their boats on the banks of the river.

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.

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 the 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.

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 the 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.

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.



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 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.
He said two of the dead were members of the home guard, a voluntary force that helps police control civil disturbances.

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.
In January, Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto sealed an \$800-million deal to buy 12 Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets, which drew criticism as they were considered too old. Indonesia in February also bought 42 Rafale fighter jets for \$8.1 billion, which will be disbursed in phases over several years.

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 multiple 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," Ryan said while in Darwin at the weekend for multinational military exercise Talisman Sabre.
"What I do see is increased partnership, opportunities for partnership and perhaps some increased growth in the region," he said.
Tensions between Beijing and Washington have flared in recent years over self-ruled Taiwan, China's disputed claims over a swathe of the South China Sea and a tug-of-war for influence in the South Pacific. China claims the democratic island of Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to take it, by force if necessary.
But Ryan said this may be "only the first issue in a larger campaign" by China to "at a minimum, become a regional hegemon in Southeast Asia, but certainly to enhance their global aspirations". According to the US Defence Department, China has the world's largest navy, the third-largest air force, and by some measures, the biggest army.

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 Palestinian 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.
Nasrallah on Tuesday said anyone who could "pressure, say a word, make contact, make an effort" to secure a truce should do so.
UNRWA estimates that up to 250,000 Palestinian refugees live in Lebanon's 12 Palestinian camps, which date back to the 1948 war between Israel and its Arab neighbors. The camps mainly lie outside the jurisdiction of Lebanese security services.
Nasrallah also ramped up his rhetoric on Tuesday against those burning copies of the Muslim holy book the Koran in Denmark and Sweden in recent weeks, saying the weak response from Muslim states had left believers wanting.
"There is no longer any meaning to waiting for anyone. You must take up this responsibility and punish these damned people with the strongest punishment," Nasrallah said.
Hezbollah was founded in 1982 by Iran's Revolutionary Guards and is classified by the United States and other Western countries as a terrorist organisation.
Last year, Hadi Matar, a 24-year-old Shi'ite Muslim American, was charged with the stabbing of Salman Rushdie, author of the 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses," viewed by some Muslims as containing blasphemous passages.
Matar's family originally hails from Yaroun, where Hezbollah has strong support. A Hezbollah official at the time said the group had no information on the attack and Nasrallah declined to comment directly on it.

China complains to US about 'dangerous' weapons aid to Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China said on Tuesday it has complained to the United States about a weapons aid package to Taiwan, urging Washington to refrain from going further down a "wrong and dangerous" path.
The US unveiled an aid package for Taiwan worth up to \$345 million on Friday as Congress authorised up to \$1 billion worth of weapons aid for the island as a part of the 2023 budget. A spokesperson for China's defence ministry, Tan Kefei, said the US must stop all forms of "military collusion" with Taiwan.
"The Taiwan issue concerns China's core interests and is a red line that cannot be crossed in China-US relations," Tan said in a statement.
Beijing claims the democratically governed island as its own territory, and repeatedly warns against any forms of "official exchanges" between Washington and Taipei. Taiwan rejects China's sovereignty claims and says only Taiwan's people can decide their future.
The United States, Taiwan's most important arms supplier, is bound by law to provide it with the means to defend itself, despite the absence of formal diplomatic ties and the anger such weapons sales generate in Beijing.

US restricts visa-free travel for Hungarian passport holders because of security concerns

Monitoring Desk
BUDAPEST: The United States imposed new travel restrictions on citizens of Hungary on Tuesday over concerns that the identities of nearly 1 million foreigners granted Hungarian passports over nine years weren't sufficiently verified, according to the U.S. Embassy and a government official.
The restrictions apply to the U.S. Visa Waiver Program, which allows passport holders from 40 countries to enter the United States for business or tourism without a visa for up to 90 days.
The validity period of travel for Hungarian passport holders under the Electronic System for Travel Authorization was reduced from two years to one year, and each traveler will be limited to a single entry into the United States.
They are the only such restrictions among the 40 participating states in the Visa Waiver Program.

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.
State media reported that 11 people died and 27 are missing in the mountains to the west of Beijing's city center. Nine other deaths were reported in Hebei province, just outside the metropolis and the source of much of its food and labor. More than 500,000 people have been impacted by the floods, state broadcaster CCTV said, without saying how many had been moved to other locations.
In early July, at least 15 people were killed by floods in the southwestern region of Chongqing, and about 5,590 people in the far northwestern province of Liaoning had to be evacuated. In the central province of Hubei, rainstorms trapped residents in their vehicles and homes. China's deadliest and most destructive floods in recent history were in 1998, when 4,150 people died, most of them along the Yangtze River.



Rescue workers in a boat go through a flooded street in a neighbourhood where days of heavy rain from remnants of Typhoon Doksuri have caused heavy damage in Beijing, China.

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 U.N. 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."
By the end of June, it said, the U.N. and its humanitarian partners reached 7.3 million people but in some parts of Ukraine's south, east and north, more than 25% of targeted people couldn't be reached "due to a combination of funding shortages and other operational challenges."

Buildup of American forces in Persian Gulf a new signal of worsening US-Iran conflict: Analysis

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Thousands of Marines backed by advanced U.S. fighter jets and warships are slowly building up a presence in the Persian Gulf. It's a sign that while America's wars in the region may be finished, its conflict with Iran over its advancing nuclear program continues to worsen, with no solutions in sight.
The dispatch of the troop-and-aircraft-carrying USS Bataan to the Gulf, alongside stealth F-35 fighters and other warplanes, comes as America wants to focus on China and Russia.
But Washington is seeing once again that while it's easy to get into the Middle East militarily, it's difficult to ever get fully out - particularly as Iran now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers. There is no sign that diplomacy will revive the deal soon, and Iran in recent weeks has resumed harassing and seizing ships trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Some 20% of the world's oil passes through the narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the wider world.

Iran shuts down for two days because of 'unprecedented heat'

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran has announced Wednesday and Thursday this week will be public holidays because of "unprecedented heat" and told the elderly and people with health conditions to stay indoors, Iranian state media reported.
Many cities in southern Iran have already suffered from days of exceptional heat.
State media reported temperatures had this week exceeded 123 degrees Fahrenheit (51 Celsius) in the southern city of Ahvaz.

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.
The decision comes after France said it would evacuate its own citizens and those of other European Union countries after Niger closed its airspace and cancelled all commercial flights.
Italy also said on Tuesday it would send a special flight to repatriate its nationals from the capital Niamey.

Some Black men lose faith in Biden, Democrats in 2024

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Bahta Mekonnen, a 28-year-old U.S. Army captain from the key voting state of Georgia, is among the millions of Black voters who helped deliver President Joe Biden the White House in 2020.
Three years later, he is one of the voters who Democrats fear could cost Biden a second term in 2024.
Disappointed by what he sees as Democrats' lurch to the left, free spending and empty promises, but also turned off by far-right Republicans, Mekonnen says he sees nothing but bad options at the ballot box next year.
"What I'm noticing across the Democratic Party right now is there's a lot of pandering to the Black community," he said. "It seems like they do a lot to try to make it seem like they are the party for young Black men or Black men as a whole, but they don't back it with anything. They don't follow through."

Israeli high-tech investment plummets in first half of 2023, industry monitor says

Monitoring Desk
JERUSALEM: Investment in Israeli technology startups plummeted in the first half of 2023, an Israeli tech industry monitor said Tuesday, citing the government's divisive judicial overhaul plan as a main driver of the downturn.
Start-Up Nation Central, a nonprofit organization that tracks and engages with Israel's technology industry, said that it had seen a 29% decrease in private funding in Israeli tech in the first half of 2023 compared to the second half of 2022, and a steep drop in investor participation. Initial public offerings and mergers and acquisitions also hit a five-year low, it said.
The organization said that uncertainty in Israel because of the judicial overhaul "is already being felt with indicators such as decreased fundraising and fewer emerging Israeli startups." Yaniv Lotan, a vice president at Start-Up Nation Central, said the correlation between the judicial overhaul and investor hesitancy is clear. He said that while technology investment has stabilized in the U.S. and globally over the past year, over the same period "here in the Israeli high-tech market, we are experiencing a continued downward trend."
Israel's high-tech sector is a major engine of the country's economy, making up half of the country's exports. It employs tens of thousands and its startup companies have drawn billions of dollars in investment in recent decades.
"In the end, markets don't like uncertainty," Lotan said. The report was released a week after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his allies passed a law that weakens the Supreme Court's oversight of government decisions.



Supporters of Lebanon's Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah listen to him as he addresses them through a screen during a rally marking Muharram, a period of mourning for Shi'ite Muslims around the world, in Nabatiyeh, southern Lebanon.

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.

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 desecration of the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark.

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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.

FM Bilawal also attended the 18th extraordinary meeting held in a virtual format.

Addressing the CFM, FM Bilawal condemned, in the strongest terms, the Islamophobic and hateful acts of desecration of the Holy Quran, which manifested religious hatred and intolerance.

He underscored that these acts, and the permission to carry them out, did not constitute freedom of expression.

The foreign minister reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to work closely with OIC member countries, especially in Jeddah, Geneva, and New York to highlight concerns about the willful acts of the burning and desecration of the Holy Quran.

He welcomed the adoption of resolutions in the UN Human Rights Council and the UN General Assembly advocating inter-religious dialogue and shunning religious hatred.

He also called for promoting inter-faith harmony and peaceful co-existence.

The foreign minister reiterated his proposal, made earlier this year on the occasion of the International Day to Combat Islamophobia, for an action plan which would inter alia include the appointment of a UN Special Envoy to combat Islamophobia and the establishment of judicial mechanisms to hold the perpetrators accountable.



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

OIC expresses grave concern over rising Islamophobia

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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 moved the Toshakhana (Management and Regulation) Bill, 2023 and the Pakistan Airports Authority Bill, 2023. Both bills were passed by the House as the Senate has already approved both legislative proposals.

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 Thar International Institute Bill, 2023.



QUETTA: A delegation from different walk of life meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

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 Sulaiman Akram Raja counsel for petitioners, Abid Zuberi counsel for SC Bar, Shoaib Shaheen counsel for chairman PTI and Aitzaz Ahsan opposed the constitution of full court.

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.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): President 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.

He said the terrorists were enemies of the country and the nation, and that they would never succeed in their evil designs.



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

CM pays homage to Lt. Gen. Sarfraz on his first death anniversary

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has paid homage to the martyr Lt. General Sarfraz Ali on his first death anniversary observed on Tuesday.

In a statement issued here, the Chief Minister said that the services of Shaheed Lt. General Sarfraz Ali are commendable and worth following. He said that the Shaheed General was a true soldier and a very kind human being. Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo recalled that his relation with the martyr General was based on sincerity and friendship.

He said that Lt. General Sarfraz Ali worked for the rehabilitation of the flood affected areas of the province relentlessly and working very hard.

He said that the services of martyr General would always be valued a lot by the people of province. He also recalled that General Sarfraz had met an unfortunate mishap during the relief operations launched for the relief and rehabilitation of the flood affected people last year.

He also paid tributes to the companions of General Sarfraz who had embraced martyrdom along with him in the helicopter crash then.

He said that the nation would never forget the great sons of Pak army and the country. The Chief Minister also prayed for the departed souls of the martyrs.

Women harassment incident BBISE chairman formed committee to probe incident

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Balochistan Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (BBISE) Ejaz Azeem Baloch took notice of the incident of harassment of women and suspended the accused official while forming an inquiry committee to probe the incident in detail.

BBISE's Controller of Examinations Abida Kakar told the media on Tuesday stating that the committee comprising the Controller of Examination, Additional

ATC issues non-bailable arrest warrants of Farrukh

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Tuesday issued non-bailable arrest warrants of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Farrukh Habib in a case of attacking police during an operation at Zaman Park.

ATC Judge Abher Gul Khan issued the warrants while allowing an application filed by the investigation officer.

The investigation officer submitted that the police had registered a case against Farrukh Habib and others on charges of attacking police. He submitted that the PTI leader had hidden himself to avoid arrest in the case.

He pleaded with the court to issue non-bailable arrest warrants of the PTI leader.

Racecourse Police had registered a case against the PTI leaders and others on charges of attacking the police teams, creating a law and order situation outside the party chief's residence in Zaman Park.

The case had been registered under sections of Pakistan Penal Code and Section 7 of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.



KARACHI: worker pumps petrol in a car at a fuel station, in Provincial Capital. As Pakistan announced an increase in petrol and diesel prices.

Imran records his statement in Tosha Khana criminal case

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

District and Sessions Judge Hamayun Dilwar heard the criminal case wherein former prime minister Imran Khan appeared before the court amid foolproof 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.

Members & Ex-officio members of BCSW renotified

Independent Report
QUETTA: The members and ex-officio members of Balochistan Commission on Status of Women (BCSW) have been renotified immediately.

According to an official notification issued here by the Women Development Department, Government of Balochistan on Monday.

According to the notification, the basic objective behind the Women Development Sector Plan is to eliminate the domestic violence and gender based discrimination through good governance and response to the gender based discriminatory attitude against women. This is also aimed at empowering women socially, economically and politically in the province, the official hand out mentioned.



QUETTA: BBISE's Controller of Examinations Abida Kakar, Additional Secretary Board Shamsullah talking to media regarding about harassment of women

Senator Qadir declares Pakistan's future as bright under CPEC project

QUETTA (APP): Chairman Standing Committee for Petroleum and Resources, Senator Abdul Qadir on Tuesday said that the future of China-Pak Economic Corridor (CPEC) project was bright which would bring economic change in the country after its completion. Ten years of this vital project were to be met with success for which the two nations China and Pakistan deserved the utmost congratulations, he expressed these views while talking to APP.

It is the responsibility of Pakistan to eliminate the obstacles to the completion of this great project and every power that is pursuing the policy of making it fail by erecting obstacles in its way needs to be crushed, he said.

He said that China has laid the foundation for the development and prosperity of the region by initially investing more than 25 billion dollars on this exemplary project saying that Pakistan's political conflict slowed down the project, but now the project was moving towards its development goal again.

Afghanistan, Iran, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates and African countries will be able to benefit from this project. If the Afghan government tries to move forward with seriousness and tolerance, it will benefit them a lot from this project and instead of getting involved in terrorism, the Afghan people will start focusing on their development and prosperity, he mentioned.

He said that the CPEC project would transform the backward areas into developed areas. Saudi Arabia has recently indicated to invest more than 24 billion dollars in Pakistan, while the United Arab Emirates has also given a clear indication of investment of 22 billion dollars to Pakistan.

Apart from this, by utilizing the mineral reserves, Pakistan can earn 8 trillion dollars and bring the country out of the depths of poverty and bankruptcy, he described.

He further said that the future of Pakistan was bright and shining, we have to overcome the terrible monster of terrorism to secure this investment.

As the interest of investors in the country is increasing, anti-national elements and terrorists have also become active.



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



LAHORE: Activists of Majlis-e-Ulema Pakistan hold a protest against the burning of the Quran in Sweden, at Badshahi Mosque in Provincial Capital.

Khushhal, Yousafzai strongly reacts to tragic act of terrorism in Bajour

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chairman of Pashtoonkhw Milli Awami Party (PkMAP), Khushhal Khan Kakar and co-chairman, Mukhtar Yousafzai have strongly reacted to the tragic act of terrorism in Bajour.

In a joint condemnation statement issued here, Khushhal Kakar and Mukhtar Yousafzai charged that the state is more interested in looting the maximum resources instead of stopping the massacre of innocent people of the area.

They said that the backwardness, terrorism, unemployment, deprivation and ignorance have been imposed on our people instead of giving development and prosperity to the Pashtoonkhw land.

And now, the right of living is being snatched from us mercilessly, Mr. Kakar and Yousafzai further charged.

They said that it is not the first incident in which the innocent people have been targeted, rather there have been hundreds of similar incidents of terrorism and barbarism on the Pashtoon land instead, they maintained. Thousands of people have been massacred and several others injured in a number of incidents of target killings, bomb explosions, landmine and bomb blasts in the past, the central leaders of PkMAP recalled. The PkMAP leaders also questioned performance of the security and intelligence agencies as how and why the incidents of terrorism.