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Govt mulls shutting down all utility stores across country

Prime minister seeks recommendations for introduction of alternative system to such stores

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The federal government has decided to close Utility Stores across the country, a move confirmed by the secretary of industries and production ministry during a Senate Standing Committee meeting on Friday.

The secretary told the meeting the decision was part of a broader strategy of the government to exit non-essential business operations, and that efforts were ongoing to re-assign affected employees to other institutions.

The announcement

was made during a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Industry and Production, which was chaired by Senator Aoun Abbas. The secretary emphasized that the government's aim is to streamline its operations by moving away from activities deemed non-essential.

According to the Utility Store management, the federal government has given them two weeks, while the subsidy on items available at the stores had already ended. According to the management, after

the news of closure of the stores, there was concern among more than 11,000 employees, out of which 6,000 were permanent and others on contract and daily wages.

On the other hand, the standing committee took strict notice on the decision to close Utility Stores and sought details on the statement of the industries secretary. Committee Chairman Senator Aoun Abbas Bappi expressed concern over the government's decision.

INP adds: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif

has sought proposals for shutting down the state-owned Utility Stores Corporation (USC) and replaces it with a new system.

The prime minister also called for proposals within two weeks for an alternative system in place of the Utility Stores.

The government was mulling to give cash amounts to BISP consumers of the Utility Stores.

In the meanwhile, the Utility Stores have stopped sale of subsidized items to the BISP consumers.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting on matters related to Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal, and British High Commissioner to Pakistan, Ms. Jane Marriott, jointly launched the "District Education Performance Index" in Federal Capital.

Ahsan concerned over alarming results of District Education Performance Index

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Friday expressed concern over the fall of 58 percent of the country's districts in the medium category of the District Education Performance Index (DEPI), and remaining in the under-performing.

Addressing a news conference following the release of the DEPI 2020-23 report, Iqbal said Pakistan's literacy rate of 60 percent was insufficient for progress and must be increased to 90 percent.

"Pakistan's national average score on the index is a modest 53 out of 100, placing the country in the 'Low' performance category," according to the report compiled by the Planning Commission in collaboration with international experts and government agencies.

The report is the first of its kind to measure district-level education performance, focusing on key

outcomes such as access, learning, equity, governance and inputs like infrastructure and public financing.

Ahsan Iqbal said Pakistan's 124 districts have scored an average of 53 percent in education, with no district falling into the high-performance category except Islamabad.

The report highlighted issues such as lack of Internet access and the diminishing role of technical institutions in education.

The minister said the declining quality of education has led to decreased enrollment in government schools and stressed the need for revolutionary measures like providing Internet access in schools, ensuring technological education and increasing digital literacy.

He also informed that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has recently established a task force to on education emergency. He said, a five-year plan would be shared with the provinces.

Sharing additional findings of the report, he acknowledged the progress Pakistan has made in human capital development but noted that the pace remains slower compared to other emerging economies and regional peers.

"These findings serve as a sober reminder that much more needs to be done to improve education outcomes across the country. We are in an era of knowledge revolution where the intellectual capital of the nation determines its destiny," he observed.

Ahsan Iqbal stressed that Pakistan's education indicators lagged behind those of peer countries and stated "Unless we achieve 90 percent literacy and universal primary enrollment, we cannot enter the development arena."

He emphasized the importance of fostering creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork skills in children and vowed to bring 25 million out-of-school children into the education system.



LAHORE: German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Svenja Schulze meeting with Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz.

ECP forms inquiry panel to probe Ijaz Chauhan's secret foreign visit

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has formed a five-member inquiry committee to investigate allegations of violation of the code of conduct by Punjab Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chauhan on Friday.

According to media reports, the Provincial Election Commissioner of Punjab, Ejaz Anwar Chauhan, has been directed to submit a written response within 10 days.

According to the order issued by the ECP, Ejaz Anwar Chauhan is accused of concealing foreign travel to Canada without obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC).

As per the ECP order, it is also alleged that Provincial Election Commissioner Ejaz Anwar Chauhan did not show interest in his supervisory role.

Reportedly, on August 5, 2024, Provincial Election Commissioner Punjab Ejaz Chauhan, who is a grade-20 officer, was made Officer on Special Duty (OSD). Ejaz Anwar Chauhan took charge of his responsibilities as Punjab Provincial Election Commissioner on January 18, 2024. Before taking charge in Punjab, Ejaz Anwar Chauhan served as the Provincial Election Commissioner of Sindh. In September 2023, Mutahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan

German Minister meets Maryam Nawaz

LAHORE (INP): Punjab Chief Minister on Friday met the German minister for economic coordination and development.

The duo discussed co-operation in economic and trade spheres and vowed to deepen bilateral and trade relationship between Pakistan and Germany.

Punjab CM thanked the visiting minister for doling out 91.1 million euros to help people affected from floods. Partnerships in clean energy and climate friendly projects was also agreed upon. CM Maryam said that economic relations between Pakistan and Germany were improving. She also appreciated Germany's help in extending GSP+ status to Pakistan.

Govt appoints Arshad Munir as Addl. Secretary, PMO Public

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Government on Friday appointed Muhammad Arshad Munir, a BS-21 officer of the Information Group as Additional Secretary, Prime Minister's Office (Public).

The Cabinet Secretariat and Establishment Division have issued a notification to this effect, said a news release.

Another May 9 incident could have been leveled against us had we held August 22 public meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): PTI founder Imran Khan has said there was apprehension of chaos on September 22, therefore, Islamabad public meeting was postponed.

Had we held public meeting May 9 like incident could have occurred. This is question of prestige of court. Court allows us to hold public meeting but administration cancels it. Islamabad public meeting has been postponed for last time, he said this in an informal talk with the journalists here in Adiala jail Rawalpindi.

He further stated no judicial inquiry has been conducted so far in respect of May 9, 2023 incident. Had we insisted on holding public meeting on August 22, it was feared May 9 like event could have been shifted to us again.

He held information

was given religious parties are on protest. There is threat for fomenting chaos. Therefore I called Azam Swati and Barrister Gohar and postponed public meeting.

He pointed out they have issued NOC for September 8 public meeting. If any one tries to create any hindrance then on September 8 then they themselves be responsible.

When PML-N is seized with fear that we are holding talks with establishment then they recall May 9.

I have not to talk with any government of form 47. I will never want country drifts into chaos.

Reacting to security sources statement he said who I am. I am head of the largest political party of the country. Therefore, I am demanding for open trial of Gen (Retd) Faiz Hameed.

Health ministry confirms second case of Monkeypox

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Health on Friday confirmed that second case of Monkeypox has been reported in Pakistan.

According to spokesperson of the Ministry of Health, the patient came from the Gulf countries with symptoms.

He added that the Health Desk at Peshawar Airport transferred the patient to hospital timely whose Mpox test was reported positive.

The spokesperson said that the Ministry of Health is ensuring continuous monitoring of the situation.

National Coordinator for Health Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that an effective system of screening and surveillance system was functional at all airports.

He added border health staff were working diligently at airports and entry points.

Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that the government was ensuring serious measures to keep people safe from epidemics.

NDMA convenes 4th session of Disaster Response Committee

ISLAMABAD (APP): As per Prime Minister's directives, NDMA convened the fourth meeting of National Disaster Response Committee (DRC) at NDMA headquarters here on Friday.

The meeting was chaired by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning and Special Initiatives and co-chaired by NDMA Chairman Lt General Inam Haider Malik, a news release said.

The session focused on evaluating the progress of directives issued during the third DRC and updates were provided on response undertaken by the provincial departments during rain emergencies. The plans to address potential emergencies that are likely to hap-

pen in the next monsoon spell specifically in South Punjab, Sindh and Balochistan were discussed. Representatives of Pakistan Railway and National Highway Authority apprised the forum about damages of infrastructure and communication lines during localised rain emergencies.

Officials of NDMA provided an overview of the anticipated impacts, situation of water reservoirs and risk calculations prepared by NEOC for the current monsoon along with NDMA's preparedness and plans. NEOC also gave an appraisal of the weather outlook of regional countries and the on-going flood situation in Bangladesh.

Government seems to be beneficiary of enforced disappearances: IHC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has given indication to issue strict order in the case pertaining to recovery of two missing professors brothers of Azhar Mashwani.

The court remarked apparently it seems as if government is beneficiary of enforced disappearances. How the people are kidnapped and chief executive does nothing. Attorney General (AG) had said he would brief Prime Minister (PM), Chief Executive knows about these matters but even then enforced disappearances are taking place.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb remarked if government has not to follow due process then what can we say. They cannot estimate how much such things are defaming the country. I am

fixing this case on Tuesday. But I will not be here on Tuesday. We don't want delay in this case due to my non availability.

He gave these remarks during hearing of case pertaining to recovery of two missing professor brothers of Azhar Mashwani Friday.

Babar Awan counsel for the petitioner gave arguments. During the hearing of the case the court inquired have you come to know any thing.

Additional Attorney General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Dogal told the court today contact has been made at high level. Efforts are under way in all ways.

Babar Awan argued five laws deal with treason and inciting to treason. It has not been told anywhere what is national interest. If it is asked from me what is national interest then I will

say " reduce the tariff of electricity. Balochistan wala will say provide gas to me. His national interest is this.

SP from Punjab Police Lahore appeared in the court and he told that CCTV footage has been provided by family. Nothing could become known from NADRA or forensic agency. Geo-fencing of 10000 number was obtained but nothing has been ascertained so far. No practicable information has been found till today August 23. Safe city project does not cover from every angle. No law enforcement agency could ascertain any thing in this regard so far.

The court remarked it seems as if only government is beneficiary of enforced disappearances. How the people in this country are kidnapped and chief executive does nothing.



RAHIM YAR KHAN: Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi attending funeral prayer of martyred police personnel in Rahim Yar Khan.

Naqvi determines to take action against attackers

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi has pledged to take stern action against the attackers who killed 13 police personnel in the Kacha area of Rahim Yar Khan.

Presiding over a high-level meeting at Rahim Yar Khan Airport on Friday, Naqvi emphasized the need for robust security measures and instructed authorities to equip operational forces with modern weapons and safety equipment.

Naqvi described the incident as a "sad tragedy" and directed all necessary measures to prevent such incidents in the future.

He ordered a coordinated operation against the perpetrators, stating that

they would be dealt with "iron hands."

Meanwhile the funeral prayers for police personnel martyred in the attack by robbers in Machhka were held at the Sadiq Shaheed Police Lines Rahim Yar Khan.

Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, Punjab IGP Dr. Usman Anwar and Punjab Home Secretary Noor-ul-Amin Mengal attended the funeral prayers. A large number of senior police and military officials, police personnel, public, and relatives of martyrs also participated in the prayers.

In the robbers' attack in Machhka area the previous night, 12 police personnel were martyred and eight were injured. Three of the martyred police belonged to the Hindu community. A

smart contingent of police paid tribute to the martyrs. After the funeral prayers, the bodies of the martyrs were sent to their native areas. The martyrs will be given full honors during their burial in their hometowns.

Mohsin Naqvi visited police personnel receiving treatment at Sheikh Zayed Hospital Rahim Yar Khan. Speaking to the media, he said the great sacrifices of martyrs would not go in vain. The federal government would provide complete support to the Punjab government in eliminating robbers from Kachha area. Mohsin Naqvi called the martyrdom of police personnel a tragedy for Pakistan and emphasised that those involved in the heinous act would be made an example.



ISLAMABAD: As per PM's directives, NDMA convened the fourth meeting of National Disaster Response Committee (DRC) at NDMA HQs in Islamabad. The meeting was chaired by Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives and co-chaired by NDMA Chairman Lt. General Inam Haider Malik.

Malik urges PTI to shun hate rhetoric, promote peace

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Masood Malik on Friday warned the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) Chief Minister should desist from making hate-based statements and spreading chaos in the country.

Talking to a Private news channel, he urged the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leadership to abandon their hate-filled rhetoric and instead embrace a peaceful and constructive

approach to politics.

The Minister's warning comes amidst concerns that the PTI leadership has been engaged in a systematic effort to destabilize the country through various means, including the provocative events of May 9.

By perpetuating divisive rhetoric and promoting unrest, the PTI leadership is not only undermining national harmony but also compromising the country's stability and security, he added.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Muhammad Abdul Qadir, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Defence Production presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House.

ESaaS to enhance Pakistan's tech capabilities, resilience efforts to combat climate change: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam Friday said that Energy Storage as a Service (ESaaS) at an industrial scale is an emerging model, where energy storage systems are offered to customers as a service rather than a traditional capital expenditure.

Speaking as chief guest at the launching and signing ceremony of the "Industry-First Energy Storage as a Service Project" held here at a local hotel, the PM's climate aide said, "With the launching of the country's first ever project, we are embarking today on a journey that not only would help advance our nation's technological capabilities but also reaffirms our unwavering commitment to combat climate change."

"The groundbreaking initiative represents a pivotal step forward in the present government's commitment to integrate innovative energy solutions and enhance the country's energy infrastructure for better and sustained energy supplies to the people," Ms. Alam remarked.

The initiative was actualized by the Brillanz Group and other key stakeholders involved in developing a transformative ecosystem for sustainability and decarbonization in Pakistan. She said that this project basically aims to revolutionise energy storage capabilities and provide a sustainable solution for our energy needs, aligning with the present government's vision for a greener and climate-resilient future. The

Legal Aid Society delegation calls on Azam Nazeer Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of Legal Aid Society called on Federal Minister for Law and Justice & Human Rights, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Thursday and discussed issues related to sexual and gender based violence and the organization's extensive work across Pakistan.

The representatives provided detailed briefings on the ongoing efforts to combat sexual violence and the challenges in delivering legal aid to victims.

The minister expressed his commitment for a strategic collaboration between the Legal Aid and Justice Authority (LAJA) and the Legal Aid Society, noting that reforms to LAJA are already underway to enhance legal aid services across the country.

He further emphasized the ministry's commitment to introducing comprehensive reforms in the Qanoon-e-Shahadat and the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to protect the rights of victims and witnesses, ensuring that criminal proceedings remain free from external influence.

Tarar reiterated that these legal reforms will ensure the protection of every victim's rights and that no influential party can manipulate or subvert the law. He also commended the Legal Aid Society for its significant contributions and tireless efforts in combating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) across the country.

He said the Legal Aid Society has been at the forefront addressing SGBV by providing legal aid, enhancing protection mechanisms.

PM directs to instantly constitute SMEDA, other vital institutions' Boards

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif on Friday chaired a meeting on matters related to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), emphasizing the crucial role of SMEs in Pakistan's economy.

He said the small and medium enterprises act as the back bone of the country's economy.

Expressing dismay over the non-functioning of the SMEDA Board, the prime minister directed its immediate constitution, stressing that boards of all institutions vital for the country's economy, should be established without delay.

Additionally, he called for promoting subcontracting in industries and taking all possible measures to integrate Pakistani industries into the global supply chain.

The prime minister also ordered to take necessary steps to ensure appointment of the SMEDA's Chief Executive Officer.

Additionally, he also directed to include the people from the private sector in the steering committee.

During the briefing, the prime minister was informed that for the first time, SMEDA Development Fund had been launched for which an amount of Rs 30 billion had been allocated for 6 years. Out of the total, Rs 5 billion have already been provided for the year 2024-25, the meeting was told.

It was informed in the meeting that, there were currently 5.2 million small and medium enterprises in Pakistan, which account for 40 percent of the country's GDP whereas 31% of country's exports depend on the SMEs.

Apart from non-agricultural employment, SME sector provides 72% of employment while some Rs 491 billion have been provided in the form of bank credit for the SME sector so far, but the bank credit for the SME sector needs to be taken up to Rs 800 billion, the meeting was told. The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Economic Affairs Ahmad Khan Cheema, Federal Minister for Industries and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain, PM's Coordinator Rana Ihsaan Afzal, and other relevant high officials.

13,452 candidates obtain nomination papers for Islamabad local elections

ISLAMABAD (INP): In preparation for the upcoming local elections in Islamabad, a total of 13,452 candidates have obtained nomination papers so far, reflecting high interest in the municipal polls scheduled for October 9.

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has reported that 356 candidates have already submitted their papers for the positions of Chairman and Vice Chairman. For the farmer seats, 268 nomination papers have been received by the District Re-

NA Speaker flays attack on police vans

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of the National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, on Friday strongly condemned the attack on two police vans in Rahim Yar Khan.

Expressing deep sorrow over the loss of police personnel in the incident, the Speaker extended his heartfelt condolences to the families of the martyrs and wished a swift recovery for the injured officers.

He said that the sacrifices made by the police and security forces in the fight against terrorism and in maintaining law and order in the country will not be in vain.

Federal Board announces Intermediate Part I&II results 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education (FBISE) Islamabad on Friday announced the results of intermediate annual examinations 2024 Part I&II in which the girls again clinched the top slots.

According to the details of results released by the Federal Board, the passing percentage of Class-11 students remained at 58.75%, while in Class-12th the passing percentage was 82.58%.

Furthermore, the number of students participating in the annual examinations of the year 2024 in Grade 11 was 93257, out of which the number of successful students was 53369. Similarly, the number of students participating in the 12th class was 90,518, out of which the number of successful students remained 72,653.

As per details of position holder students, Arooba Asim belonging to Pre-Medical Group Punjab College for Women Khayaban Sadiq Sargodha clinched the first position by getting 1065 marks.

Meanwhile, Tahreem Imran from Army Public School and College Gujranwala Cantt and Hajra Najeib from Army Public School and College Girls Rawalpindi Cantt shared second position by securing 1054 marks.

Similarly, Aafia Wajid from Army Public School and College for Girls Humayun Road Rawalpindi Cantt and Amina Riaz from Army Public School and College Tufail Road Lahore Cantt shared the third position by securing 1053 marks. In the pre-engineering group, Huda Ali Murtaza from HITEC School and College for Women, Taxila Cantt secured the first position with 1045 marks. While Abdullah Jawad from Siddique Public School for Boys Madina Town Lohi Bhir Islamabad got the second position by getting 1043 marks.

The third position was shared among Muhammad Haseeb Iqbal from Siddique Public School Madina Town Lohi Bhir Islamabad and Zayna Qasim from Army Public School Fort Road Rawalpindi with 1037 marks.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation from Legal Aid Society had a meeting with Federal Minister for Law and Justice and Human Rights Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar in Federal Capital.

HEC Chairman urges collective push to keep young talent in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman, Higher Education Commission Dr Mukhtar Ahmad Friday called upon for a collective push serves as a timely reminder of the need for a cohesive strategy to stem brain drain and empower young Pakistanis to achieve their dreams within the country. Talking to a Private news channel, Chairman HEC expressed deep concern regarding the prevailing mindset among young people in Pakistan, who prefer to seek job opportunities abroad rather than staying in their home country.

He emphasized the need for a collective effort from society, media, and parents to instill trust and confidence among youngsters about their prospects for a bright future in Pakistan. Chairman HEC, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad, emphasized the crucial role of society, media, and parents in rebuilding the trust of young Pakistanis in their homeland and its future.

He urged these stakeholders to join hands in creating an enabling environment that fosters a sense of belonging, security, and opportunity among the youth. Responding to a question regarding the 97 students who were awarded



Coordinator to PM on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam addressing as chief guest at a ceremony about launching of industry-first energy storage as a service project in Islamabad

ISSI hosts book launch for 'CPEC Beyond 2030: A Green Alliance for Sustainable Development'

ISLAMABAD (APP): The China Pakistan Study Centre (CPSC) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) organised the launch of the book, 'China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Beyond 2030: A Green Alliance for Sustainable Development' edited by Dr. Rabia Akhtar and published by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES).

The event was graced by Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed as Chief Guest and Xu Hangtian, Minister Counselor at the Embassy of China in Pakistan, as Guest of Honour, a news release said.

Distinguished reviewers included Ambassador Naghmana Hashmi, former Ambassador of Pakistan to China; Dr. Salma Malik, Associate Professor Quaid-i-Azam University; and Dr. Hassan Daud Butt, former CEO Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Board of Investment.

In his remarks, DG ISSI Ambassador Sohail Mahmood highlighted the salience of the all-weather Pakistan-China Strategic Cooperative Partnership in Pakistan's foreign policy and of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) as its central component. He said that the CPEC, as a flagship project of BRI, connects China's western provinces through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. The project is transformative for Pakistan, addressing critical issues such as energy shortages and infrastructural deficit, and enhancing re-

Five-day anti-polio drive set to launch on Sept 9

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Administration is set to launch a comprehensive five-day anti-polio campaign starting on September 9.

Deputy Commissioner Islamabad, Irfan Nawaz Memon on Friday chaired a meeting to review arrangements for upcoming anti-polio drive.

According to an ICT spokesman, the meeting was attended by District Health Officer (DHO) Dr. Zeem Zia, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) East and others.

Senate committee forms sub-committee to analyze country's EV Policy

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Aon Abbas chaired the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Industries and Production held Friday at Parliament House.

The Senate Committee deliberated on the inclusion of cold storage in the industrial sector and the provision of affordable electricity rates. The matter was referred by the Chairman Senate. Officials informed that the ECC approved the matter and forwarded it to the Cabinet for their approval to declare 'Cold Storage' an industrial sector.

Furthermore, the committee was briefed on Pakistan's Auto Policy. Officials informed that 13 automobile companies are currently operating in the

PM offers aid to Bangladesh amid severe floods

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif, expressing profound sorrow and grief over recent catastrophic floods, on Friday offered assistance Bangladesh to help cope with the devastating situation.

In a letter to Chief Advisor, Bangladesh Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Prime Minister Muhammad Shabbaz Sharif expressed Pakistan's solidarity with Bangladesh during this challenging time, stating that the country stood with those who have lost loved ones, homes, and livelihoods in the floods. This was shared in a press release by the PM's Office.



PESHAWAR: Jamat-e-Islami (JI) Chief, Hafiz Naem-ur-Rehman along with others addresses to media persons during press conference, at Markaz-e-Islami in Peshawar.

CDA chairman directs swift implementation of Digital Parking Project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA), Muhammad Ali Randhawa, on Friday instructed the authorities concerned to expedite the installation of hardware for the Digital Parking Project in Islamabad.

This directive comes after the development of software for the project.

The first phase of the project will focus on introducing digital parking in the city's busiest markets and marakiz.

Chairman Randhawa was chairing a meeting emphasizing the importance of taking all stakeholders, particularly local traders, into confidence to ensure the project's success.

He also directed that parking regulations and charges be finalized, drawing from experiences of other cities and international practices.

The revenue generated from digital parking will be utilized for the beautification, uplift, and repair/maintenance of markets and marakiz.

Notably, Chairman Randhawa stressed the need to include a system that prioritizes senior citizens, women, and people with special needs in the digital parking project.

ICT admin launches crackdown on beggars, 15 arrested

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) administration has stepped up efforts to curb begging in the Federal Capital.

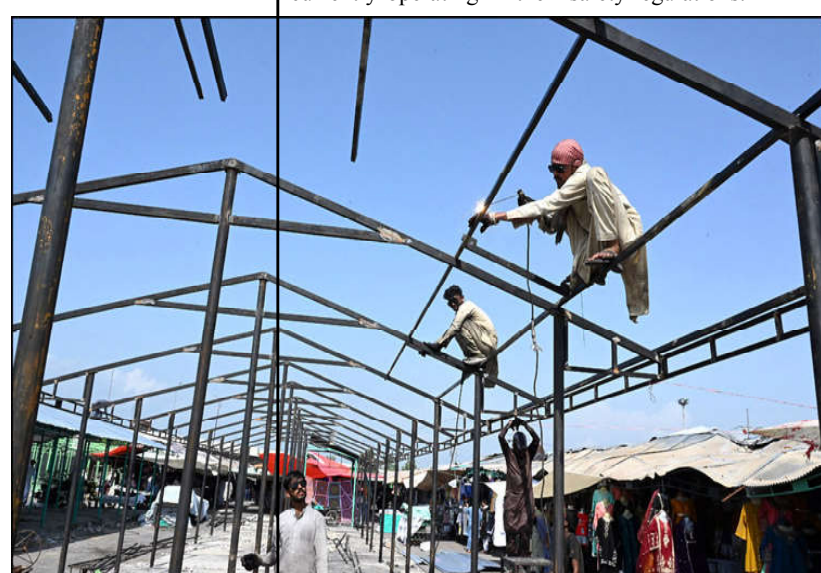
In a recent operation, 15 professional beggars were arrested in a crackdown led by the Assistant Commissioners and Magistrates spearheading the initiative in various areas, said the ICT's spokesman.

In an operation, the Assistant Commissioner City led by district administration teams arrested 5 professional beggars from Jamia Masjid Rumi and Faisal Market. While 6 were arrested in the Pothohar area.

Similarly, the Assistant Commissioner of Rural areas detained four alms-seekers from locations including P.S. Lohibher and Sihala. The arrested individuals were taken to local police stations. Minors found begging were sent to the Edhi Center for care.

This crackdown was part of a daily operation focused on reducing begging in Islamabad.

The district administration was planning to expand its efforts by targeting more areas and conducting frequent raids.



ISLAMABAD: Rehabilitation work begins at Peshawar Mor Weekly Bazaar after extensive fire damage and burned numerous stalls.