



Maria Wasti breaks silence on her leaked photos controversy

PM urges unity among political forces to defeat terrorism

ARIF MEHMOOD KHAN
ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday urged all the political parties to show unity against anti-Pakistan elements. Taking to Twitter, the premier penned that through their despicable actions, terrorists wanted to spread fear and paranoia among the masses and reverse the hard-earned gains against terrorism and militancy. PM Shehbaz added, his message to all political parties is to show unity against the anti-Pakistan elements amid the rising tide of terrorism across the country. "We can fight our political fights later," said the PM.

A day earlier, the premier visited Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, after a suicide attacker blew him

self up inside a mosque filled with people during Zuhr prayer at the Police Lines.
Chief of Army Staff Syed Asim Munir received the prime minister on his arrival. Mr Sharif was accompanied by Minister for Defence Khawaja Asif, Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb, and Minister for Interior Rana Sanaullah.
During the visit, Corps Commander Peshawar briefed the prime minister about the motives behind the terror attacks. Inspector General of Police Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muazzam Jah Ansari gave the initial investigative report about the suicide attack on the mosque. The PM was also shown CCTV footage of the suicide attack on the Police Lines mosque. The participants of the meeting offered

fatеха for the martyred, sympathized with the bereaved families and prayed for the early recovery of the injured. PM Shehbaz said the cowardly terror attacks could not weaken resolve of the nation against terrorism and the miscreants and their facilitators involved in attacks on innocent citizens would be punished for their heinous crimes.
The premier said terrorists were attacking the security institutions which were defending Pakistan, adding the terrorists were making a nefarious attempt to create an atmosphere of fear and terror. The strength of unity of institutions and people would foil the designs of terrorists, he said adding Pakistan had rendered great sacrifices against terrorism and sacrifices of the martyrs would not go waste.

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ISLAMABAD: Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), calls on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

Death toll in Tando Dam boat tragedy rises to 51

PEAK POINT
KOHAT: The death toll in Kohat's Tando Dam boat tragedy has risen to 51 as 21 more bodies of the seminary students were retrieved from the reservoir on the third day of the mishap on Tuesday. According to the rescue operation is ongoing to recover the bodies of two pupils who are still missing.
It is noted mentioning here that a boat, carrying passengers including madrasa students as well as the boatman, capsized in Kohat's Tando Dam on last weekend on (Sunday).
In the meantime, hospital sources quoted that five students have been recovering in the hospital. The dead bodies were transported to KDA Hospital. Meanwhile, the seminary caretaker Shahid Noor said that he himself had seated 30 children in the boat, including one of his sons and six nephews. "Among the martyrs are my son Muhammad Talha and my nephews," he said. The caretaker government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) has taken notice of the incident.

ECP rules Shujaat to remain PML-Q president

SEHRISH NAZ
ISLAMABAD: The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Tuesday declared that Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain would remain the president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q). The electoral watchdog also stated that the PML-Q central working committee's move to remove Shujaat as party chief was illegal and declared it null and void. It furthered that the elections announced by the central committee were also null and void.
Earlier, the ECP had reserved its decision on Shujaat's plea. In July last year, Pervaiz Elahi's group had decided to remove Shujaat and General Secretary Tariq Hashir Cheema from the party's top posts. However, Shujaat had filed an application with the ECP challenging the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) widened as the party elected Wajahat Hussain as its central president.

IMF-Pakistan discuss fiscal policies to accomplish 9th review

SAMRA ATHAR
ISLAMABAD: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Pakistan here on Tuesday discussed and reviewed the economic and fiscal policies as well as the reforms agenda to accomplish the 9th review under the Extended Fund Facility.
According to press statement issued by the finance ministry, Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator, Senator Mohammad Ishaq held a meeting with IMF review Mission led its Chief, Nathan Porter.
The meeting was attended by IMF resident Representative, Ms. Esther Perez Ruiz; Minister of State for Finance and Revenue, Dr. Alisha Ghous Pasha;

Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Finance (SAPMO), Tariq Baiwa, SAPMO on Revenue, Tariq Mehmood Pasha, Governor State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Jamil Ahmed, Secretary Finance, Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), members of IMF delegation from finance division.
The finance minister welcomed the delegation and shared long standing friendly relations with the IMF.
He briefed the mission on fiscal and economic reforms and measures being taken by the government in different sectors including bridging the fiscal gap, exchange rate stability and in energy sector for the betterment of the economy.

Islamabad court to indict Imran in Toshakhana case on February 7

JQRA ZAHOR ABBASI
ISLAMABAD: An additional sessions court in Islamabad on Tuesday announced its decision to indict Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief Imran Khan in the Toshakhana (gift depository) reference against him on February 7. District and Sessions Judge Zafar Iqbal held the case and fixed February 7 (Tuesday) as the indictment date. The former premier was also ordered to pay a bond of Rs20,000.
During the hearing, the court asked Imran's lawyer Ali Bukhari where

been submitted during the last hearing.
The court advised Bukhari to submit the power of attorney today.
The ECP lawyer, however, said that the power of attorney could not be issued until surety bonds were in place. This led to a bitter exchange of words between the ECP counsel and Imran's lawyer.
Lawyer Ali Bukhari told the commission's lawyer to not talk to him directly, but rather talk to the court. The electoral watchdog's lawyer requested that the court issue an arrest warrant for Imran Khan.

Meeting reviews progress of technology centers, development projects
IRFAN SADOZAI
ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the performance of technology centers of excellence here. During the meeting, he said four Centers of Excellence were established in 2017-18 to meet the demands of the fourth industrial revolution. The establishment of a Center of Excellence and

nano and space technology, but the successive government of PTI showed coldness towards it and no progress was seen during the previous government, Ahsan Iqbal said adding that a strong relationship between research centres and industry is key to the future. Despite limited resources, the minister said, the government is providing financial and administrative support to the centers of excellence.

Caretaker KP chief minister forms JIT to probe Peshawar blast

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan has formed a joint investigation team (JIT) to probe the suicide attack that claimed at least 95 lives and left more than 100 people injured in Peshawar.
The announcement was made at a joint press conference by the chief minister and KP Inspector General of Police (IGP) Moazzam Jah Ansari a day after the brazen attack at a mosque in the Peshawar Police Lines - one of the fortified zones in the provincial capital. The chief minister confirmed that 95 people had lost their lives, adding that a compensation package was being prepared for the victims of the terrorist attack. He also assured full support to the police chief, adding that the incident was "shocking for all of us". Speaking on the occasion, the IGP said the JIT would be led by a DIG and it would include officials of other security agencies as well. He vowed that all preparators involved in the attack would be taken to the task. He said investigation was being made into the security lapse as "the first question arises in the mind is that how the suicide bomber entered the Police Lines".

COAS directs all commanders to continue focus on anti-terrorism operations

ARSHAD MALIK
RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir presided over the 25th Corps Commanders' Conference held at GHQ Tuesday, said a statement issued by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).
Participants were briefed in detail about prevailing and emerging threats, the situation in IOJK and ongoing intelligence-based operations being undertaken by Army and LEAs for breaking the nexus between terrorists and their support mechanism across the country. The forum paid rich trib-

utes to the Martyrs of the Peshawar police line blast and vowed that perpetrators will be brought to exemplary justice.
COAS said that such immoral and cowardly acts cannot shake the resolve of the nation rather reinvigorate our determination to succeed in the ongoing war against terrorism with Zero tolerance for any terrorist entity, COAS emphasised.
COAS directed all commanders to continue to focus on anti-terrorism operations in coordination with intelligence and law enforcement agencies with renewed resolve till the time we achieve sustainable peace.

Peshawar mosque blast toll rose up to 100 dead with 221 injured

PEAK POINT
PESHAWAR: The death from the deadly suicide bombing inside a mosque of Peshawar's Police Lines has rose up to 100, with 221 people injured on Tuesday after more bodies were recovered from debris, according to officials concerned. A frantic rescue mission that started following the gruesome suicide blast continued the whole night at the mosque and second consecutive day on Tuesday, which had an entire wall and some of its roof blown out by the suicide hit. In the yesterday deadliest suicide bombing, DSP, five sub-inspectors among the martyred police officers. More bodies recovered on second day from the wreckage of the mosque blast. Overnight, at least nine bodies were recovered as rescuers sifted through the rubble of the mosque's collapsed wall and roof, said the officials concerned. According to the Police Control Room Peshawar, more than 200 injured were taken to Lady Reading Hospital (LRH), out of which about 100 are under treatment and the rest have been discharged. Following the announcement of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan, day of mourning was observed on Tuesday to condemn the deadliest attack of the year, with the national flag flying at half-mast on government buildings.

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PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa caretaker Chief Minister Azam Khan reviews rescue operation during visit to site of Peshawar's Police Lines mosque suicide blast here on Tuesday.

Islam, Constitution protect rights of believers of all religions: Ashrafi

PM's Special Representative for Interfaith Harmony



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal chairing a meeting to review the performance of Centers of Excellence.

Meeting reviews progress of technology centers, development projects

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the performance of technology centers of excellence here.

During the meeting, he said four Centers of Excellence were established in 2017-18 to meet the demands of the fourth industrial revolution. The establishment of a Center of Excellence and artificial intelligence, robotics, big data and cloud computing were aimed at preparing for the fourth industrial revolution.

Despite limited resources, the minister said, the government is providing financial and administrative support to techcenters of excellence. Ahsan Iqbal hoped that technology centres of excellence will make the country famous by creating platforms like Google and Facebook.

"Centers of Excellence will play a key role in preparing the country for the digital revolution", he said adding that technology Centers of Excellence collaborate with Central Asian and Gulf states. He said development and accessibility in modern scientific

fields are indispensable to cope with the new demands.

Meanwhile, Federal Minister for Planning also chaired another meeting held here to review the local projects. Secretary Ministry of Planning, Chief Economist, Members of the Planning Commission and Project Directors attended the meeting.

The meeting reviewed special measures taken for the rehabilitation of flood-affected areas and the current situation of the SE Framework, Outlook 2035, Internship Programme, and Special Plans for 20 Most Backward Districts.

The meeting decided in principle to adopt an effective procedure for seeking opinions from the private sector on the PC-1 and

feasibility reports submitted by the provincial governments and federal ministries for approval from the Ministry of Planning.

The minister said consultation to expert opinions of the private sector and experts are indispensable for the formulation and completion of national projects of the best quality.

He said a special section dedicated to expert opinions should be added in PC-1.

"As a champion of reforms, the Ministry of Planning has a large volunteer team of experts on national and international standards", he said adding that there is a need to shift the process of federal projects' planning and approval of PC-1 to a fully automated system.

ICT admin inspects compliance of fire safety protocols

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) District Administration inspected fire extinguishing equipment in buildings and restaurants as a precautionary measure to ensure safety of people.

According to a press release issued here on Tuesday, the ICT administration inspected buildings and restaurants in different markets and ensured availability of fire extinguishing equip-

ment and mandatory safety tools.

The administration ensured that food handlers and restaurants owners had necessary measures in place to deal with any untoward situation.

The inspection team also reviewed compliance with the Staircase Operating Procedure (SOPs) regarding usage of LPG gas kits, while taking strict action against violators.

The assistant com-

missioner directed the food handlers to strictly comply with safety measures.

Meanwhile, the administration has taken action against illegal gas filling agencies and the violators of SOPs. During the raid three accused violators were also arrested. Furthermore, the assistant commissioner also inspected fair price shops and stalls to check the quality and availability of fruits and vegetables.

Security in Islamabad put on high alert

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: The security in the federal capital has been put on high alert after Peshawar bomb blast along with strict checking at all entry and exit points of the city. According to police spokesman, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Dr Akbar Nasir has directed all police off-

icials to check the duty points themselves as no laxity will be tolerated in that regard. He said that checking has been increased at all entry and exit points of Islamabad.

Special instructions have been issued to the official deployed at the checkpoints to make security more effective and keep a vigilant eye on suspicious

vehicles and individuals. Policemen serving at various duty points have been prohibited to use mobile phones while proper gadgets and weapons have been provided for effective security. The police spokesman said that Islamabad police were equipped with thermal imaging capability and it was being fully utilized.

Govt to provide two million jobs to youth under NYEP

PEAK POINT

ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Youth Affairs, Shaza Fatima Khawaja has said that the present government will provide two million jobs to the country's youth through the National Youth Employment Policy (NYEP). Addressing the opening ceremony of the

Commonwealth Year of Youth, Shaza Fatima said that Pakistan has a huge youth bulge and about 150 million people of Pakistan are under 30 years of age which means that about 68 percent of our population consists of youth. She said that youth were not only our future but our present and we believed that if the youth were empowered by provid-

ing opportunities, they could become a strong asset for the country. "Our aim is to attract youth towards education, business and positive activities," she added. The government's priority domains for the uplift of youth are "Girls Learn Jobs Earn", "Blue Collar Jobs" and "Providing dignified jobs to the youth in the future", she added.

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Another economic disas-Dar

Mosharrar Zaidi

The Sharifs of London have miscalculated badly, but the costs of the miscalculation for the Pakistani citizen and consumer - and this pain will continue for the foreseeable future. The inevitable caving in of Ishaq Dar to the IMF programme will deliver another close shave with default, but an escape, nevertheless. This suppository will hold for only as long as the Finance Division, FBR and State Bank continue to do another close shave with default, but an escape, nevertheless. It turns out that my moniker for the PTI government's ill-intentioned petrol subsidy last year - as the door hit the PTI's backside when they exited power, the 'Tarin subsidy' - was inaccurate. The Tarin subsidy is the Dar subsidy; and both these subsidies are the poison pills Pakistan must swallow in the short term, to allow for the continued, unceasing protections this country affords to what has to be among the laziest (and stupidest) elites on the planet.

taxes on their turnover, or farmers, fair taxes on their produce. In short, there is great pain coming for the Pakistani citizen and consumer - and this pain will continue for the foreseeable future. The inevitable caving in of Ishaq Dar to the IMF programme will deliver another close shave with default, but an escape, nevertheless. This suppository will hold for only as long as the Finance Division, FBR and State Bank continue to do another close shave with default, but an escape, nevertheless. It turns out that my moniker for the PTI government's ill-intentioned petrol subsidy last year - as the door hit the PTI's backside when they exited power, the 'Tarin subsidy' - was inaccurate. The Tarin subsidy is the Dar subsidy; and both these subsidies are the poison pills Pakistan must swallow in the short term, to allow for the continued, unceasing protections this country affords to what has to be among the laziest (and stupidest) elites on the planet.

and largely similar natural resource advantages and disadvantages.

Most crucially, both countries suffer from at least as much, if not more, corruption, nepotism and cronyism. Journalists in both countries suffer from constraints, spoken and unspoken. Human rights are violated in both countries. Minorities are mistreated in both countries. India and Bangladesh both manage difficult geopolitical equations; both have refugees pouring into them, to varying degrees. Both must manage China's rise and America's decline, and the concomitant changes in global affairs. Both countries continue to be incredibly unequal and problematic places to be born poor. Just like Pakistan. But only Pakistan, among the three, seems to have all the same problems exacerbated by a complete and utter absence of economic growth.

Indeed, the costs will also not be borne by the establishment that today is forced to cling to the very political parties it had sought to make obsolete back in 2018. Most of all, the Sharifs of London miscalculating what decade we are in and what Ishaq Dar's actual facilities are good for, will not result in any costs that will be borne by Iman Khan - that self-inflicted plague that afflicts Pakistan's elite and will not be cured, perhaps for decades.

Growth - the one thing that Daronomics and Tarinomics are supposedly good for - is unlikely to return to Pakistan. It should now be clear as day that the payoff from this elite-first economic policy-making regime (no matter who is delivering it) is not high enough, nor sustained enough, to make it okay. Other countries that adopt fast tracks to economic growth, do it in a manner that delivers more than six per cent or seven per cent per annum for years and years on end. Since 2000, Pakistan has crossed the seven per cent GDP growth per annum threshold only once, the six per cent threshold, only four times. Both India and Bangladesh have crossed six per cent a total of fourteen times since 2000.

Are Ishaq Dar or Shaukat Tarin really responsible for putting Pakistan in the vice-like grip of international organizations like the IMF and FATE, and at the mercy of creditors from Beijing or Paris Club capitals? The short answer is: yes. Ishaq Dar and Shaukat Tarin are the most powerful individuals in shaping economic policy in Pakistan in the last quarter century. The only one that comes close to these two in terms of sustained power over public policy is Dr Abdul Hafeez Shaikh. The same Dr Shaikh that is apparently resting in a stable, ready to gallop into Islamabad as soon as the establishment shows patience with this circus. Partisans will scowl at the comparisons - but that is what being partisan is all about. The more interesting question is whether these three men are actually any different from one another. Are they? Can they be? This is where a longer answer is merited.

A cash-is-king economy will become even further removed from any inkling it has toward digitalization. Revenue will see an immediate boost as imports flood back into the market with the marketization of the US dollar, but this initial boost will only contribute to inflationary pressures and demand is going to almost certainly suffer. Tax collectors are not going to suddenly find a magic formula for getting homeowners to pay fair taxes on their homes, or retailers, fair

India has crossed seven per cent in eleven of those fourteen years. Bangladesh has done it four times. Both India and Bangladesh have the same legal British legal system, largely similar judiciaries,

No finance minister - given the political leadership and system given the insecurity of tenure of civilian leaders, and given the geopolitical circumstances - can do dramatically different from what Tarin or Shaikh or Dar have done. But all three should have.

Courtesy The News

Questionable delay

Arifa Noor

Islamabad, the capital of gossip, is now firmly divided into two camps: those who know the elections will not be held and those who are not sure because they can't see the route through which the delay will be orchestrated. The small minority which is still certain that elections are to be held is far too small and irrelevant to count at the moment.

If rumours are to be believed, the PDM and the powers to be are in no mood for elections, for the popular will not be in PTI's favour. Iman Khan's popularity seems to be soaring, thanks to his bayana (narrative), the state of the economy and the PDM's bumbling - or rather that of the prime minister and his financial wizard. And as no one really wants him to win, he baldly stated that elections held after the constitutional limit will be valid or have hinted that the economic situation doesn't warrant such an exercise. A recent disclosure by the KP governor points in a similar direction.

But this is easier said than done, like most deeds in Pakistan including last year's vote of no-confidence or Ishaq Dar's promise to rein in the dollar. So far, only Dr Sahib has been reined in, thanks to the IMF which refused to blink. The first challenge remains for the legal way. The constitutional provisions for the National Assembly are there, say the legal eagles, but there is no excuse to delay the provincial assembly elections. The former, on the other hand, can be extended for six months or so.

In other words, if the provincial assembly elections are to be delayed, it will either require the courts to resort to the doctrine of necessity and legalise the impossible or violation of the Constitution in an uglier manner.

But this is hard to believe that technocrats can be a solution.

Will the courts oblige, and if so, will the legal fraternity, among others, stay quiet? The answer varies, depending on who you ask. The PTI will kick up a fuss for the legal way. This also leads to a second question: What will remain in place? Will it be the existing set-up of a PDM government in Islamabad, along with the PPP and BAP in the provinces? And then these caretaker set-ups in Punjab and KP? The latter in particular is intriguing, for Mohsin Naqvi and his crew don't inspire much confidence as cabinet members who remain in charge for too long. Naqvi's professional achievements have been justly highlighted across our media platforms but do they equip him to provide the blueprint for the budget in a year beset with financial difficulties?

Courtesy Dawn

Police Lines bombing

Monday's savage bombing targeting a mosque in Peshawar's Police Lines is a disturbing reminder of the havoc the proscribed TTP is capable of, as well as a tragic illustration of the failed policy of suing for peace with the terrorist group. In the TTP's worldview, either the state accepts their unreasonable demands, or gets ready to face murderous rampages like the mosque bombing. It is also a fatal security lapse in what is supposed to be one of the most well-protected parts of the KP capital, bringing back memories of last year's Koocha Risalidai bombing in the same city. That atrocity was carried out by IS-K. Monday's bloodbath has reportedly been claimed by the Mohmand faction of the TTP, apparently as 'revenge' for the killing of Omar Khalid Khorasani in Afghanistan last August. That notorious militant had at different times been associated with IS-K, Jamaat Ahnra, as well as the TTP. KP has been hearing the brunt of the terrorist onslaught ever since the TTP renounced their truce with the state late last year. While attacks mainly targeting law-enforcement personnel have been occurring with regular frequency, the Police Lines bombing is surely a major escalation, considering the high body count, specifically targeting the policemen and army troops that were offering prayers in the mosque. Sadly, the needed response from the political leadership, treasury and opposition included, as well as the security establishment to the TTP threat, has been lacking. Politically, the nation has been witnessing paralysis over the past several months, with the PDM and PTI gunning for each other in a destructive battle of nerves. Meanwhile, there exist caretaker governments in KP and Punjab, while policymaking is largely frozen, mainly due to questions about when general elections will be held, as the economy nosedives.

President orders restoration of property to a woman citizen

PEAK POINT
 ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi has upheld the orders of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women (FOSPAAH), and directed the restoration of a valuable property of a female citizen of Islamabad through the appointment of a local commissioner. The order asked for its vacated from the illegal occupation, breaking open the locks of the premises, in case found locked, removal of any other hurdles or barriers in the way of taking possession of the property, and giving it back to the rightful owner under the Enforcement of Women's Property Rights Act, 2020. The president said "a local commissioner be appointed to restore or confer possession of the title of the property, a valuable house in Bahria Town, to

Ms Aalya Fazal (the complainant) including measures to perfect such title and to submit a compliance report within seven days". The local commissioner could avail the aid of local police if necessary, and the SHO of the local police station should extend full aid to the local commissioner and be present with her at the relevant time along with the police contingent for the safety and security of the local commissioner, it was further added. The president in his decision rejected the unqualified and baseless stance of the accused person that he had been condemned unheard by FOSPAAH, adding that the accused had not produced anything to establish the title of the disputed house in his favour, and thus, had no locus standi to bring the representation against the orders of FOSPAAH.

Outgoing Cabinet Secretary, Press Secretary to President pay farewell

PEAK POINT
 President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday was separately called on here by the retiring Cabinet Secretary Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, and the outgoing Press Secretary to the President Qamar Bashir. During the meetings, the president commended the retiring Cabinet Secretary for his services to the Government of Pakistan and expressed his best wishes for his future endeavours. The president also appreciated the services of his Press Secretary Qamar Bashir and presented him with an honorary shield.



ISLAMABAD: Outgoing Cabinet Secretary, Sardar Ahmad Nawaz Sukhera, paid a farewell call on President Dr Arif Alvi, at Alwan-e-Sadr.

PPP emerged as single largest party in local bodies elections: CM Sindh

PEAK POINT
 KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has emerged as the single largest party in the local bodies' elections, therefore it has the right to have its mayor.

He added that the donors were requested to execute the projects for their organizations or their vendors. "Everything must be transparent," he said. The CM Sindh said that over 2 million houses, katcha and Pacca, have been damaged. "We have conducted their survey which was a gigantic task and now just after the conference, we would start distributing money through well-reputed NGOs which have been made partners for the housing project.

Replying to another question, Syed Murad Ali Shah said that around 20,000 school buildings have been damaged by the heavy rains and floods. "In such dangerous buildings students could not be allowed to take classes," he said and went on saying that the government has decided to house such schools in tents so that the education process of the children must continue.

AJK President meets U.N. representatives in New York

PEAK POINT
 MUZZAFFARABAD: United Nations Assistant Secretary for Political and Peace Affairs Mohamed Khaled Khiri and Assistant Secretary for Human Rights Commission Ijaz Brands Kehris during a meeting with President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on Tuesday said that issue of Kashmir was still on the charter of the press release, President Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry said during the meeting that if the Kashmir issue was not resolved, the credibility of the United Nations would also be affected. He said, in order to resolve the Kashmir issue, the United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres should speed up his efforts because India had started large-scale demographic

changes in Occupied Kashmir since August 5, 2019 including paving the way for bringing a Hindu Chief Minister there. He also said that the international community should keep in mind that Pakistan and India are two nuclear powers of the third world and any small or big accident between the two countries could be a precursor to a major war that would affect the peace of the entire world.

On this occasion, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry also gave a detailed briefing to the top officials of the United Nations on the issue of Kashmir and the latest situation in occupied Kashmir. President Sultan said that the Prime Minister of Pakistan offered talks to India, but India had not given any positive response because the Indian government was following the policy of Hindutva, while atrocities were being committed on Muslims and minorities living in India.

Governor urges youth to focus on performance not social media

PEAK POINT
 MULTAN: Punjab Governor, Muhammad Baig Ghur Rehman, urged the youth to conduct research instead of believing in hearsay being circulated on social media about the government's performance. Addressing the 5th convocation of Women University of Multan (WUM) at its marital campus here on Tuesday, he said that youth should know which party worked for the promotion of education, constructed motorways, distributed millions of laptops among students in a transparent way, and set up new universities.



He announced that the laptop scheme would be launched by the incumbent federal government soon as PML-N past provincial and central government did in its 2013-18 era for opening up new vistas and avenues. "Don't believe in tall claims of political parties on social media rather do the research yourself to find out the facts as our religion has also taught us not to trust hearsay" the governor said. He said PML-N's past govt had enhanced the budget for education three times and added that it was 34 billion when party took over in 2013 and 120 billion when it completed its tenure in 2018. "We improved education by establishing more universities in our past govt and the tradition would be continued," the governor stated. He urged upon graduates to have E-world and E-business in the future adding that Govt Degree College for Women was elevated as WUM by PML-N govt is now offering a number of courses and disciplines which were limited in the college. Mr. Rehman termed character as the key to success in this world and hereafter, adding, that they should display the finest character in life because it is a valuable virtue and adopt generosity.

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Railways Minister hints at increasing 7-8 percent rail fares

PEAK POINT
 LAHORE: Railways Minister Khawaja Saad Rafique on Tuesday hinted at increasing rail fares from 7 to 8 percent, following the new raise in fuel prices and financial crunch in the department. Addressing a press conference here at Railways Headquarters, Khawaja Saad Rafique said that diesel bill of Pakistan Railways had already reached to Rs 38 billion and the department was not able to afford additional Rs 5 billion in the head of increased fuel prices announced by the government this weekend.

He said that railways was facing financial crunch due to floods which disturbed the budget, leaving damages of billions of rupees, adding that railways needed immediate financial injection of Rs 40 billion to meet pension and salaries shortfall and the federal government would be requested next week in this regard. He further said that salaries of railway employees were being paid in five schedules on 1, 5, 10, 15 and 25 dates of every month while this month, adding that two schedules of 15 and 25 dates could not be followed. However, Rs 920 million had been released while the remaining amount of Rs 30 million would be paid tomorrow to clear all salaries," he added. The minister said that railways was trying to find its own means of earning, agricultural land would be given on short term lease, hoping that branding initiative would also generate income in coming days. He claimed that no one had bothered to fully read the Supreme Court's order and some 2,600 shops

along its network across the country were not leased. As a result of which, it caused a loss of millions to the railways. He said that with the relaxation secured from the top court, tenders had been invited for leasing out these shops and he hoped that they would soon be given on rent. Talking on political scenario, he said that no doubt, inflation was unbearable but these first eight months of government were of 'fire fighting', adding that the country needed to do more to avoid default.

Commander Kenya Navy visits NHQ

PEAK POINT
 ISLAMABAD: Commander Kenya Navy, Major General Jimson Longiro Mui on Tuesday visited Naval Headquarters here and called on Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi. Upon arrival, the guests were received by Chief of the Naval Staff, whereas a smartly turned out contingent of Pakistan Navy presented the Guard of Honour. Thereafter, the dignitary laid floral wreath at the Shuhada's Monument and was introduced to the Principal Staff Officers, a Pakistan Navy news release said. Later, Commander of the Kenya Navy called on Chief of the Naval Staff. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including bilateral collaborations and regional maritime security milieu were discussed. The Naval Chief highlighted Pakistan Navy initiatives for ensuring maritime security and peace in the region through Regional Maritime Security Patrols. The visiting Admiral appreciated and acknowledged Pakistan Navy's efforts and commitments in support of collaborative maritime security in the region. Later, Commander of Kenyan Navy was given detailed briefing on Pakistan Navy roles and operational capabilities. It is expected that the ongoing visit of Commander of the Kenyan Navy will further enhance bilateral collaboration between the two countries.

Benazir Nashonuma program to be expanded to more districts: Shazi Marri

PEAK POINT
 ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Shazia Marri Tuesday said the outreach of the Benazir Nashonuma Program will be expanded in more districts. In a meeting with the Ambassador of the Netherlands in Pakistan, Henny de Vries, the federal minister apprised the ambassador about the BISP success.



Shazia Marri told her about the intended initiative of BISP wherein 364 Nashonuma centers would be opened in 19 districts across the country. Under the initiative, the pregnant women registered with BISP would be provided facilities of nutrition-rich food supplements, quarterly medical checkups, cash assistance and health guidance, the minister said. She said BISP was aimed at forging financial resilience in women adding that women were facing numerous challenges all over the world and Pakistan was no exception. Marri said that economic independence was

one of the most desired wishes of any woman which was why BISP had identified women as head of family and primary beneficiary of the program. She appreciated the support of the Netherlands during difficult times, especially during the recent flood. Shazia Marri informed them that recently BISP formally included an marginalized segment of our society i.e. transgender community into its program. Now they were eligible for Rs. 7000 quarterly cash assistance. She said that BISP after complaints, has introduced a new method of cash disbursement through individual bank accounts.



LAHORE: Federal Minister for Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique addressing a press conference at Railway Headquarter in Provincial Capital.

SC throws out PTI plea against Mohsin Naqvi's appointment as Punjab CM

PEAK POINT
 ISLAMABAD: The Supreme Court has rejected the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) plea challenging the appointment of Mohsin Naqvi as the chief minister of Punjab, citing a number of objections including "scandalous language" used in the petition. Former federal minister Asad Umar filed the petition that also challenged the appointments of Raja Riaz as Opposition Leader in the National Assembly and members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The SC registrar's office rejected the request as "not entertainable" pointing out technical issues that nullify the

petition. Reportedly, the first point of concern raised by the registrar's office takes issue with the Article under which the petition was raised. Under Articles 184(3), the Supreme Court can, if it considers that a question of public importance with reference to the enforcement of any of the Fundamental Rights is involved, have the power to make an original jurisdiction in any dispute between any two or more governments. The plea, the SC adds does not point out as to what questions of public importance in the instant case are involved with reference to enforcement of any of the Fundamental Rights... so as to directly invoke juris-

isdiction of the Supreme Court" under the cited article. "Since no other forum capable of resolving the issue had been approached and no justification was given by the PTI's petition for evading all other forums was provided, the court was compelled to disregard the petition. "The certificate provided on page 15 of this Constitution Petition does not fulfill the requirements of Rule 6 of Order XXV of the Supreme Court Rules 1980. "No pro/resolution to the effect that petitioner is General Secretary of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and filing the petition on behalf of said political party.