

Education emergency shows govt's seriousness in education sector: PM

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressing the government's resolve to promote education in the country said that imposing

education emergency in Pakistan showed how the government was serious in promoting this sector.

He said the government was taking steps to increase the capacity of the country's youth through the use of modern

technology.

He was talking to a high level delegation of Google for Education led by its Managing Director Kevin Kells. The delegation comprised of Google for Education representatives from eight countries.

The prime minister told the delegation that the government was providing laptops to the brilliant students from remote areas of the country. For this scheme, he said the required amount had already been allocated in

the budget 2024-25.

He pointed out that the scope of Danish Schools was being expanded to the less developed areas of Islamabad, Gilgit Baltistan, Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Minister directs for audit of fertilizer companies to determine production costs



BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain on Thursday directed that a third-party audit be conducted to determine the cost of production of fertilizer companies, in order to ensure transparency and

fair pricing in the industry.

He issued the directive while chairing a Fertilizer Review Committee meeting which was attended by Federal Secretary Industries and Production, Dr. Muhammad Fakhr Alam Irfan, said a news release.

The meeting reviewed the stock availability, demand,

and prices of urea in the country.

Rana Tanveer said that there was no shortage of urea fertilizer in the country and added steps were taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of gas to fertilizer companies for smooth production of urea.

He also directed fertilizer companies to review the performance of dealers and agencies, and instructed provinces to verify fertilizer dealers and agencies, with any ghost dealers and agencies to be blacklisted.

The minister emphasized that fertilizer companies must ensure the supply of fertilizer to the provinces.

The Fertilizer Review Committee meeting will now be held weekly to monitor the situation.

Rupee sheds 10 paise against Dollar

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan Rupee on Thursday witnessed a devaluation of 10 paise against the US Dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.60 against the previous day's closing at Rs 278.50.

According to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market, however, were Rs 277.7 and Rs 280.6 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by 55 paise to

close at Rs 298.77 against the last day's closing of Rs 298.22, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

The Japanese Yen lost 1 paise and closed at Rs 1.75, whereas a decrease of 48 paise was witnessed in the exchange rate of the British Pound, which traded at Rs 354.07 as compared to the last day's closing of Rs 354.55.

The exchange rates of the Emirates Dirham and the Saudi Riyal increased by 2 and 3 paise to close at Rs 75.84 and Rs 74.26.

Gold rates remain unchanged at local market, up by \$3 in int'l trade

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—The per tota price of 24 karat gold remained unchanged at Rs. 241,300 on Thursday, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat and 10 gram 22 karat also remained stagnant at Rs.206,876 and Rs.189,636 respectively.

The price of per tota and



10 grams silver witnessed no change and was traded at Rs 2750 and Rs2357.68 respectively.

However, the price of gold in the international market increased by \$3 to \$2,335 from \$2,332 the Association reported.

Exports increase by 28.75% to Rs 7.9 trillion in 11 months

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—The exports from the country in the rupee term witnessed an increase of 28.75 percent during the first eleven months of the current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

Exports during July-May (2023-2024) totaled Rs. 7962.082 million as against Rs. 6183.949 million during the corresponding period of last year, according to PBS provisional figures.

Exports from Pakistan during May, 2024 increased by 25.99 percent to Rs.

790.199 million compared to exports of Rs.627.199 million in May 2023.

On month-on-month basis, the exports from the country increased by 20.83 percent in May 2024 when compare to exports of Rs.653.957 million in April 2024.

The main commodities of exports during May 2024 included knitwear (Rs. 115,022 million), ready-made garments (Rs.97,564 million), bed wear (Rs. 77,814 million), rice others (Rs. 75,311 million), cotton cloth (Rs. 48,117 million), tools (Rs. 28,768 million), petroleum products, excluding top Naptha (Rs.25,393 million).



Naval Chief message on World Hydrography Day 2024

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—World Hydrography Day (WHD) is celebrated worldwide on 21st June each year to raise awareness about the importance of hydrography and how it plays an important role in improving our knowledge of the oceans. The theme chosen by International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) for WHD-24 is "Hydrographic Information Enhancing Safety, Efficiency, and Sustainability in Marine Activities," which aptly underscores the criticality of hydrographic services in contemporary maritime affairs. Annual celebration of this day emphasizes importance of hydrography as it underpins almost every activity associated with the sea including safety of navigation, security and defence, environmental protection, ports/harbour construction, coastal zone/disaster management and maritime boundary delimitation.

Pakistan is blessed with over 1000 kms of coastline along with 290,000 Sq kms of sea area within its EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) and Continental Shelf (CS). Pakistan like other coastal states is responsible for hydrographic surveys



and production of nautical charts/ maps of its waters to provide accurate nautical information to the mariners. On behalf of Pakistan, the National Hydrographic Office (NHO) is entrusted with this task. In this backdrop, NHO conducts comprehensive hydrographic surveys and ensures regular updating of relevant nautical products in order to ensure navigational safety of the vessels traversing through Pakistani waters. NHO is also shouldering the National responsibility of Coordinator NAVAREA-IX (comprising North Arabian Sea, Persian Gulf, Red Sea region) since 1976 for promulgation of Navigation Warnings. This is indeed a great honour for Pakistan, which shows the trust of the world community on capabilities and professionalism of our hydrographers. The continued dedication to ensure production of International standard nautical products also reaffirms Pakistan's role as an important contributor to global maritime safety,

efficiency and sustainability of marine activities. This relentless pursuit of excellence in hydrography is pivotal in securing national maritime interests and promoting national maritime sector.

The Hydrographers have also remained instrumental in helping us determine the maritime boundaries and in past getting Pakistan's extended Continental Shelf area of 50,000 sq kms approved from UN in 2015. As promoter of national maritime domain, it is also worth mentioning that PN/ NHO in collaboration with China has also taken a lead role in first ever systematic hydrocarbon resource mapping of Pakistan's complete EEZ. In days to come this effort shall facilitate offshore oil & gas discoveries and may provide a boost to the national economy.

Pakistan Navy celebrates this day every year to underscore the importance of hydrography towards its share in all marine and maritime related activities which are eventually contributing towards our national economy. On this day, let us collectively celebrate the strides made in hydrography and dedicate ourselves to the ongoing pursuit of knowledge and innovation in this vital field.

ICCI all set to host APCPC on June 25-26

BT NEWS

ISLAMABAD—The Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) will organize "All Pakistan Chambers Presidents Conclave" (APCPC) on June 25-26, 2024.

The APCPC will hopefully be attended by Presidents of over 70 Chambers of Commerce & Industry and federal ministers of government's economic team, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

President ICCI Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari said that it is at the credit of the ICCI that it took the initiative to organize first APCPC in 2020 to bring Presidents of



Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry

economic growth and development.

The Conclave will feature keynote speeches, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, providing a platform for business leaders to engage with each other and with policymakers.

He said that at the moment, the economy of the country is facing multiple challenges, which have slowed down the business activities, therefore, the ICCI felt the need to bring the leadership of the entire business community at one place and give comprehensive as well as workable proposals to the government for the revival of business and economic activities.

Baltistan Cricket Club qualified for the final by winning the semi-final

ALI MOOSA KHAN

MARYLAND-USA—In ongoing Washington Cricket League (WCL) Season T-20 cricket match, Baltistan Cricket Club (BCC) qualified in final after defeating

Jamaica Cricket Club (JCC) in semi-final. On the point scoring board, BCC is the leading team so far among the teams played in WCL. BCC qualified for the final

after defeating the Jamaica Cricket Club team by three (3) runs in the semi-final match of the WCL, Season T-20 in a thrilling contest.

After winning semi-final match, the owners of BCC: Ali Ibrahim, Kashif and Shujaat, gave an interview and said that our aim is to provide opportunities to talented players from Pakistan, especially Gilgit-Baltistan, living in USA. Because in the

coming times USA cricket team will be called the world champion in the world of cricket. Since every job in USA done in merit based selection, every player gets a chance to show their talent and ability and can also represent the country and nation at the international level without any pressure. BCC is working day and night to achieve this goal in USA.

Pakistan in Crisis:

Navigating Challenges toward a Stable Future

DR. MUHAMMAD SHAHZAD ASHFAQ

The current situation in Pakistan is one that demands careful analysis and strategic planning in order to navigate the challenges the country faces toward a stable future.

From political instability to economic challenges, Pakistan is confront with a myriad of issues that require immediate attention and long-term solutions. It is important to explore the various dimensions of the crisis in Pakistan and propose potential pathways to a stable future. However, Pakistan has a history of political instability, characterized by frequent changes in government, military coups, and a lack of continuity in policies and governance. The recent years have seen a rise in political polarization, with competing political parties struggling for power and influence.

The ongoing power struggle between the civilian government and the military has further intensified the political instability in the country. The lack of political consensus and the destruction of democratic



institutions have hindered the effective governance of Pakistan, leading to a sense of disillusionment among the public. In order to address this challenge, it is imperative for Pakistan to strengthen its democratic institutions, uphold the rule of law, and promote political inclusivity. A stable future for Pakistan hinges on the establishment of a political system that is transparent, accountable, and representative of the diverse interests of the population.

Main problem of Pakistan faces significant economic challenges that have contributed to the overall crisis in the country. High levels of inflation, unemployment, and a growing debt burden have strained the economy, leading to social unrest and economic hardship for many Pakistanis. The lack of sustainable economic growth and development

has further worsened the situation, creating a sense of uncertainty and instability. It is essential to implement comprehensive economic reforms that prioritize inclusive growth, job creation, and poverty alleviation. Investing in infrastructure development, promoting entrepreneurship, and enhancing the business environment are critical steps toward achieving economic stability and prosperity. Additionally, Pakistan must focus on diversifying its economy, reducing its dependence on a few key industries, and promoting sustainable development practices.

The security situation in Pakistan linked to the regional dynamics of South Asia.

The ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, the longstanding tensions with Hindustan and the presence of extremist groups pose significant security challenges for Pakistan. The spillover effects of regional conflicts, cross-border terrorism, and internal security threats have contributed to a sense of insecurity and instability within the country.

415,569 domestic, 162 foreign tourists visited KP during Eid-ul-Azha holidays



BUREAU REPORT

PESHAWAR—A total of 415,569 tourists including 415,569 domestic and 162 foreign visited different scenic sites of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during Eid-ul-Azha.

According to information shared by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Culture and Tourism

Development Authority, these tourists visited scenic sites at Dir Upper, Malam Jabba, Galiyat, Chitral Upper, Chitral Lower, Kaghan and Naran.

Maximum number of tourists' influx, around 174,720 was recorded in Kaghan and Naran sites, while around 162,872 number of tourists visited Galiyat.

About 23,440 tourists visited Chitral Lower and 46, 631 arrived at Malam Jabba area in Swat district.

The data has been compiled by taking information from police check posts, levis check posts, Assistant Commissioner offices and field Assistant Directors of Development authorities.