

Six uplift schemes worth over Rs640 million approved

By Our Staff Reporter

MULTAN: Commissioner Multan Division, Engineer Amir Khattak, has approved six uplift schemes worth over Rs 640 million for infrastructure upgradation across the division.

He was presiding over Divisional Development Working Party (DDWP) here on Sunday. Approval was given for widening and repair of 6.75 km Chak No 2R to Malik Basti Malik Sher Khanewal District road at a cost of Rs 137.5 million. Approval was given for construction of 5.37 km Metal Road from Chenab Bun Ghagra Qalandar to Chirag Bela at a cost Rs 53.6 million. Likewise, Approval has been given for widening and repair of

10.78 km road from Zafarullah Chowk to Bridge 103 10R which would be completed at a cost Rs 121.0 million.

Allah Daad cattle farm to Dalu Morr Phase 2 has been approved in which construction, repair and opening of 4.48 km road has been added as revised estimate of Rs 123.3 million approved. Rs 152 million would be spent on construction of Khanewal Rest House to Jahania Road. Rs 54.542 million would be spent on bridge Hamidpur to Lailpur Tehsil Kahror Pakka. Commissioner Multan Engineer Amir Khattak said that living nations continue their journey of development even in adverse conditions. The Punjab government has assigned a special task for development of Multan division. Director Development Rubina Kausar

and concerned officials gave briefing in the meeting.

Excise deptt organizes drug awareness walk

Excise and Taxation department organized a drug awareness walk led by Director Excise and Taxation Abdullah Khan Jalbani here on Sunday. Speaking on the occasion, Director Abdullah Khan Jalbani said that every possible efforts would be taken to make country drug free. He said that awareness was dire need of the hour to save the young generation from drugs and added that serious steps should be taken regarding it.

ETOs Khalid Hussain Qasoori, Malik Muhammad Naem, Sheikh Muhammad Arif, Mubashir Riaz, Rao Javed, Mian

Shaukat, Imran Khurshid, Shakeel Ahmed Chauhan, Excise Department Spokesperson Arif Niazi, Zohaib Zafar, Darwish Mohammad, Makk Abdul Majeed Nandla, Rehan Farooq and other staff of Excise and Taxation department also participated.

Trauma centres to be set up at Motorways: Asad Mahmood

Minister for Communications Asad Mahmood said on Sunday that efforts were being done to modernize Motorways and National Highways in order to facilitate the travelers.

Talking to APP, he said that digitalize system was being introduced for road users at Motorways. He said that the citizens would continue their journey without any stop at Motorways. The fees of toll-plazas would be

paid through digital system.

Asad also informed that initially, the trauma centers would also introduced at Motorways. About revenue generation, he stated that citizens would be given facilities for setting up petrol pumps and others.

He also instructed NHA officials to work on issuance of non objection certificates (NOC) required for initiating economic activities along roads. It would not only facilitate the citizens but would also help in generation of economic activities. Earlier, during briefing at NHA office, the General Manager NHA Chaudhary Iftikhar Ahmed Sajid informed the minister about pace of work on different schemes of NHA in the local region, which is comprise of about 1248 kilometers.

UK hit by third rail strike in a week

LONDON: Britain's railway system once again came to a virtual standstill on Saturday as union workers staged their third walkout of the week in strike action billed as the biggest in decades.

Tens of thousands of rail workers staged the latest day-long walkout over pay and job security, hampering weekend plans for those already hit by strikes on Tuesday and Thursday.

Only around a fifth of services are set to operate on heavily reduced hours, with those still running starting much later in the morning than usual and set to end as early as 6:30 pm.

The RMT rail union insists this week's actions are necessary as wages have failed to keep pace with UK inflation, which has hit a 40-year high and is on course to keep rising.

It also wants a fifth of compulsory redundancies withdrawn. RMT general secretary Mick Lynch said its members are "standing up for all working people trying to get a pay rise and some job security". "In a modern economy, workers need to be properly rewarded for their

work, enjoy good conditions and have the peace of mind that their job will not be taken away from them," he added.

With Britain suffering from rocketing inflation and stagnant economic growth, the industrial action — which could be mirrored by workers in other sectors over the summer — has echoes of the 1970s.

Then, the country was crippled by a wave of strikes across various industries while struggling with rampant price rises and non-existent growth, a toxic combination known as stagflation. Network Rail chief executive Andrew Haines said: "Unfortunately, the RMT's decision to carry out another day of needless and premature strike action means our passengers will suffer again on Saturday."

Russia strikes Kyiv residential neighbourhood ahead of G7 summit

Explosions rocked a residential neighbourhood in Kyiv Sunday morning as G7 leaders gathered in Germany to discuss their backing of Ukraine against Russia's invasion, with a crucial Nato meeting set to follow in days.

The first attack on the capital in nearly

three weeks was intended to "intimidate Ukrainians... at the approach of the Nato summit", the city's mayor Vitali Klitschko said.

"Some of the inhabitants have been evacuated. Two wounded people have been hospitalised," Klitschko said after visiting the apartment building that was hit, adding people remained "under the rubble". Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, who is expected to address both the G7 and Nato gatherings, said cities as far away as Lviv, near the Polish border, had been struck by a wave of attacks on Saturday. "This confirms... that air defence systems — the modern systems which our partners have — should not be on (their current) sites or in storage, but in Ukraine," he said in his daily address.

Hours after Sunday's attack, Britain announced it would join together with fellow G7 powers Canada, Japan and the United States in banning Russian gold exports to stop oligarchs from buying the precious metal to avoid sanctions aimed at Moscow.

The move "will directly hit Russian oligarchs and strike at the heart of (President Vladimir) Putin's war machine," said British Prime Minister Boris Johnson. At their meeting in the Bavarian Alps, the Western allies will take stock of the effectiveness of sanctions imposed so far against Moscow, consider possible new aid for Kyiv, and begin turning their eye to longer-term reconstruction plans.

The European Union this past week offered a strong show of support when it granted Ukraine candidate status, although the path to membership is long.

Sunday's strike in Kyiv comes a day after the mayor of key industrial hub Severodonetsk said the city had been "fully occupied" by Russian troops.

As the war enters its fifth month, the city's capture marks an important strategic win for Moscow, which is seeking full control over the east of the country after failing in its early objectives. Severodonetsk was the scene of weeks of running battles before the Ukrainian army began withdrawing its outgunned forces to better defend the neighbouring city of

World powers agree to ban gold exports from Russia



MOSCOW: World powers on Sunday agreed to ban gold exports from Russia, in new concerted action to cut off Moscow's financial lifeline as G7 leaders met in southern Germany to lock down new support for Ukraine.

US President Joe Biden and his counterparts from the world's most industrialised nations are gathering at Elmau Castle in the Bavarian Alps before they continue on to Madrid for talks with Nato partners.

They will seek to close ranks in their backing for Ukraine against Russia's invasion while grappling with the intensifying global fallout of the war.

From soaring inflation to a looming food crisis and energy shortages, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, now in its fifth month, has mired the world in a series of crises. The leaders will also be confronted with the looming threat of recession as well as pressures over climate change. In a show of their resolve to heap pressure on Moscow, the G7 announced that it will outlaw imports of Russian gold which the US said is the second-largest export for Russia and a significant source of revenue for Vladimir Putin and his allies. Read more: G7 countries pledge to stop oil imports from Russia

According to the White House, Russia accounted for about five percent of all gold exports in 2020 and 90 percent of Russia's output went to G7 countries — mostly to Britain. Western allies have been scrambling to coordinate their response since Russia sent its troops flooding into Ukraine on February 24. While they have hammered the Russian economy with unprecedented sanctions, Putin's armies have been digging in their heels for a drawn-out war. Ahead of the talks, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged allies not to waver in their support. "Ukraine can win and it will win. But they need our backing to do so. Now is not the time to give up on Ukraine," he said, as Britain announced another \$525 million in guarantees for World Bank lending later this year. —AFP

Biden signs new gun control bill into law

WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden on Saturday signed into law his country's first gun-control bill in decades that seeks to prevent people with criminal records and mental problems from acquiring firearms.

The bill — now known as the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act 2022 — passed the House of Representatives on Friday evening by 234 to 193 votes.

The US Senate passed the bill late Thursday by a 65-33-vote and sent it to the House. As promised by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the House acted swiftly and sent it to the president on Friday evening for signing it into law. President Biden also acted promptly and put his signature on the bill early Saturday morning before leaving on a week-long trip to Europe.

"God willing, it's going to save a lot of lives," said the president after signing the bill. He recalled that the last time Congress passed meaningful gun safety laws was almost 30 years ago and he attended that event as well. He mentioned major school and public shootings that killed hundreds of Americans, mostly children.

For those "and for the shootings that happen every day in the streets... their message to us was: 'Do something. How many times have we heard that? Just do something.' For God's sake, just do something," he said.

The US media described the new law as "the most significant firearms legislation" in more than 30 years. It followed mass shootings last month at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, and a primary school in Uvalde, Texas, that left 31 people dead.

The law requires tougher background checks for buyers younger than 21. It would provide \$15bn in federal funding for mental health programmes and school security upgrades. The law provides funds to encourage states to implement



"red flag" laws to remove firearms from people considered a threat. It also seeks to close the so-called "boyfriend loophole" by blocking gun sales to those convicted of abusing unmarried partners.

Conservative Republicans oppose the new law and have vowed to undo it if they capture Congress in the midterm elections.

US Supreme Court says Americans have right to carry guns in public

US Supreme Court ruled on Thursday that Americans have a fundamental right to carry firearms in public in a landmark decision that came just weeks after another deadly school shooting.

The 6-3 ruling strikes down a New York law that required a person to prove they had legitimate self-defence needs to receive a gun permit and will prevent states from restricting people carrying guns.

Despite a growing call for limits on firearms after two mass shootings in May stunned the country, the court sided with advocates who said the US constitution guarantees the right to own and carry guns.

Read more: Gun violence response leaves US standing a world apart

The ruling is the first by the court in a major second amendment — the constitutional amendment allowing Americans the right to bear arms — case in a decade and a victory for the powerful gun lobby, the National Rifle Association (NRA).

"Today's ruling is a watershed win for good men and women all across America and is the result of a decades-long fight the NRA has led," NRA executive vice president Wayne LaPierre said in a statement.

"The right to self-defence and to defend your family and loved ones should

not end at your home."

Justice Clarence Thomas, who wrote the majority opinion, said: "The second and fourteenth amendments protect an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defence outside the home."

"New York's proper-cause requirement violates the fourteenth amendment by preventing law-abiding citizens with ordinary self-defence needs from exercising their second amendment right to keep and bear arms in public for self-defence."

The US Senate is currently considering a rare bipartisan bill that includes modest gun control measures.

US President Joe Biden said he was "deeply disappointed" with the ruling. "This ruling contradicts both common sense and the constitution, and should deeply trouble us all," he said in a statement.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul said today was a "dark day."

"Shocking, absolutely shocking, that they have taken away our rights to have reasonable restrictions," she told reporters, breaking off from making a separate announcement.

"We can have restrictions on speech — you can't yell fire in a crowded theatre but somehow there are no restrictions allowed on the second amendment," she said.

"I'm sorry this dark day has come," she added. Hochul later tweeted that the ruling was "outrageous", accusing the six judges of acting "recklessly". "In response to this ruling, we are closely reviewing our options — including calling a special session of the legislature. "Just as we swiftly passed nation-leading gun reform legislation, I will continue to do everything in my power to keep New Yorkers safe from gun violence," she wrote. New York Attorney General Letitia James also said she was reviewing the

Protests spread across US against SC ruling

WASHINGTON: The US Supreme Court's ruling to overturn a 50-year-old legal precedent recognising a woman's right to abortion sparked countrywide protests in the United States on Saturday, as chanting, shouting and weeping marchers filled the streets.

While abortion rights demonstrators took to the streets in cities across New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Texas, New Mexico and California by Saturday afternoon, more states are expected to join the protest by Sunday.

In Washington, street demonstrations began outside the SC after the decades-old guarantee of abortion access was struck down. "I have as many rights as (a) gun" owner, declared a placard, referring to a recent decision that further relaxes America's already loose gun control laws. "We won't go back," chanted women protesting outside the Supreme Court, telling the judges they would not allow them to reverse their freedom. CNN described Friday's decision as "seismic ruling" that would "eliminate the federal constitutional right to an abortion", adding that the verdict "has roiled the country, fueling protests that began on Friday and were expected to extend throughout the weekend". One of the participants in Washington was Carol Foulke, 93, who heard about the repeal at her assisted living home on Friday and told her daughter they needed to join the protest in Washington. She was a family planning social worker for underserved communities before women received the legal protection and said she "knows the impact this repeal will have".

In New York and Washington, small crowds of anti-abortion activists also came out on the streets, supporting the court's decision. Police said they arrested at least 20 people in New York. They had not been charged yet. The largest protests were held in Chicago where thousands marched to Grant Park as soon as the court announced its ruling. Police closed multiple streets as more protests were held on Saturday. A large crowd also gathered at Chicago's Federal Plaza, with some holding signs that read "No abortion bans, not now, not ever!" and "I dream one day women will have the same rights as guns". —AFP

17 people found dead in South African nightclub: police

PRETORIA: At least 17 young people were found dead at a nightclub in a township in South Africa's southern city of East London on Sunday, police said.

"We got a report about 17 (people) that died in a local tavern in Scenery Park which is based in East London," a provincial police chief brigadier Theminkosi Kinana told AFP.

"We are still investigating the circumstances surrounding the incident," he added.

He said the victims were aged between 18 and 20 years of age.

The Eastern Cape provincial community and safety department official Unathi Binqose, speaking from the scene, ruled out a stampede as cause of death.

"It's difficult to believe it's a stampede as there are no visible open wounds to those dead," Binqose told AFP by telephone.

A regional local newspaper, Dispatch-Live, reported "bodies are lying strewn across tables, chairs and on the floor; with no obvious signs of injury".

Unverified pictures shared on social media showed bodies with no visible signs of injuries, strewn on the floor of the club. Local television showed police officers trying to calm down a crowd of par-

ents and onlookers gathered outside the club in the city, which lies on the Indian Ocean coast, nearly 1,000km south of Johannesburg.

"Parents whose children did not sleep home are gathered here and they want to enter the tavern to look for their loved ones," said Binqose. He said he understood the patrons were students "celebrating pens down, a party held after writing (high school) exams".

South Africa unrest toll climbs to 45 as stampede kills 10 in Soweto

Stores in two South African provinces were ransacked on Tuesday for a fifth consecutive day, hours after President Cyril Ramaphosa deployed troops in a bid to quell unrest that has claimed 45 lives.

The premier of Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg, said 10 bodies were found late on Monday at a looted shopping centre in Soweto, on the city's outskirts. "The police discovered in the evening that 10 people died during (a) stampede," provincial premier David Makhura told reporters. The death toll for Gauteng stood at 19 deaths, he said. Earlier, Sihle Zikalala, premier of the southern province of KwaZulu-Natal, said 26 people there had died. —AFP

WHO says monkeypox is not yet a health emergency

WASHINGTON: WHO Secretariat are following extremely closely," Tedros said in a statement issued on Saturday.

WHO said in a separate statement that although there were some differing views within the committee, they ultimately agreed by consensus that at this stage the outbreak is not a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). —AFP

COURT NOTICE

In The Court Of ALI RAZA Civil Judge/Judge Family Court.

Suit for Dissolution of marriage on the base of khula. Alia vs Adnan Farooq. Notice to Adnan farooq s/o umar farooq r/o khiali near masjid loorahan mistrian tehsil and district Gujranwala Pakistan. Presently Residing in abu zabhi Dubai. Where as the service of the defendant is not going to be effected through ordinary means. So the service of defendant be effected through Proclamation in the newspaper. You the above named defendant is directed to appear in the court in person or through counsel on 29/06/2022 at 8:00am failing which ex parte proceedings shall be initiated against you. Given under my hand and the seal of this court Ali Raza Judge, Family Court, Gujranwala.

CORRECTION OF FATHER'S NAME

I Muhammad Sheeraz have passed the Secondary School Certificate Annual Examination 2021 under Roll No 528231 from B.I.S.E. My father's Name is Ghulam Yameen whereas on certificate my Father's name has been mentioned as Muhammad Yameen which is incorrect. I want to get changed my father's Name from Muhammad Yameen to Ghulam Yameen. If any person/organization/agency has any objection, then the same may be intimated in writing to the Secretary, Board of Intermediate & Secondary Education, Near 49-Tail Faisalabad Road, Sargodha within 15 days.