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dailyindisb@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

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AGP tells Supreme Court

Government decides to review legislation aimed at trimming CJ's powers

CJP Bandial welcomes govt decision says Government should consult with the SC when making laws related to the judiciary

ISLAMABAD (APP): Attorney General for Pakistan (AGP), Mansoor Usman Awan on Thursday said that the federal government had decided to reconsider the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Bill.

He expressed these views before eight-member larger bench of the Supreme court headed by Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial and comprising Justice Ijaz Ul Ahsan, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Sayyid Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A Malik, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi and Justice Shahid Waheed which heard the petitions challenging SC Practice and Procedure Bill.

During the course of proceedings, the Attorney General said that this law also dealt with many other issues.

He said that there were two laws, one was the Supreme Court Review of Orders and Judgments Act and the other was the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act, both the laws had similar provisions for review and hiring a lawyer.

Chief Justice Umar Ata Bandial said that it was good that the Parliament and the government were amending similar laws.

The government should consult the Supreme Court regarding the legisla-

tion of the judiciary, he added.

The attorney general said that the Supreme Court (Practice & Procedure) Act, 2023 was more extensive and included provisions related to the internal affairs of the court.

It was necessary to arrive at a solution regarding which of the two legislations could be relied upon, he stressed.

The chief justice said that the Parliament should be told to look into the harmonisation of both laws.

"We welcome your proposal," he added.

The AGP Awan said that the legislation done on the SC's administrative

matters did not take into account the judiciary's advice.

He said that the amendments to the law would now be made with the Supreme Court's consultation.

Other than the legislations, advice would also be sought on other matters, he added.

Advocate Imtiaz Siddiqui counsel for a petitioner said that the court had asked for the record of the parliamentary proceedings in its previous hearing.

The chief justice said that the court found out through newspaper that Parliament had declined to present the record.

All records were present on the Parliament's website and the court had taken the record from the Parliament's website, he added.

Justice Mazhar said that it was important to see if the issue of similar laws could be solved.

If the laws were similar, it would be a waste of time to hear petitions regarding full court, he added.

The attorney general said that the matter could be sent to the Parliament for discussion.

Subsequently, the court directed the AGP to seek instructions from the government and adjourned the hearing till next week.



ISLAMABAD: Minister for National Food Security, Tariq Bashir Cheema calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

PTI chief using all tactics to divert attention from May 9 incidents: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Imran Niazzi could go to any extreme to divert attention from his culpability in the tragic events of May 9.

"Make no mistake about the evil intent behind Imran Niazzi's latest ploy to defame our law enforcement agencies and police. Yet again, he is making misleading and baseless allegations of the 'rights abuses' just to divert attention from his culpability in the tragic events of May 9," the prime minister said in a tweet.

"I am not surprised by his antics," Prime Minister Shehbaz said.

He said that someone who could persistently use foul language against the state institutions, incite people to violence and

attack the state symbols and military installations, and bring down martyrs' monuments, was capable of going to any extreme.

The prime minister said that Imran Niazzi presided over a disinformation apparatus that deployed fake news methodically to fool the people. "Everything about him is hate, division and lie," he remarked.

Meanwhile at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will attend the inauguration ceremony of President Erdogan in Ankara on 3 June 2023.

The Prime Minister's visit will be a reaffirmation of the deep-rooted fraternal ties between Pakistan and Turkey. The Prime Minister will convey warm felicitations on behalf of the Government and

people of Pakistan to President Erdogan on his re-election as President of Türkiye on 28 May 2023.

The Prime Minister will also extend an invitation to President Erdogan to attend the 7th Meeting of the High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC) in Islamabad, with a view to providing further momentum to the diverse and multifaceted strategic partnership between Pakistan and Türkiye.

Pakistan-Türkiye relationship is deeply embedded in commonalities of faith, culture and history, and strengthened by mutual trust and convergence of views on regional and global matters. Frequent leadership level exchanges are a defining feature of the eternal bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Anti-corruption, Punjab police arrests Ch Prevaz Elahi



LAHORE (Online): Anti-Corruption Punjab and Punjab Police arrested Former chief minister Punjab Chaudhry Pervaz Elahi from his residence.

The arrest was made when he was going somewhere in his car.

Corruption cases are filed on Ch Pervaz Elahi in Mandi Bahaudin and Gujranwala. Pervaz Elahi was not appearing in court after the cancellation of his bail.

Keep clear that anti-corruption court dismissed his interim bail. Heavy contingents reached to Elahi residence Gulberg. Anti Corruption team was also along with police however they fail to arrest him.

Once again taking action anti corruption and Punjab police arrested him from Zahoor Elahi Palace. Afterward Zahoor Elahi Palace was surrounded by police. On the other side Anti-corruption also recognized the arrest of Pervaz Elahi.

Punjab interim information minister Amir Mir said he was wanted to anti-corruption. They arrested him. We haven't arrested him. Action will be taken in accordance with crime.

He said see today resistance was made he was attempting to runaway in bullet-proof vehicle. Police attempted to break glass then he gave arrest.

It is worth mentioning that Anti-corruption Punjab made many raids on house to arrest Elahi. Raids were made in Gujrat, Kunjah and Lahore residences.

Marriyum says: Interview with BBC, true reflection of Imran's duplicitous character

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb Thursday said that Imran Khan's interview with BBC correspondent was "a true reflection and mirror of the real face of a duplicitous and false character."

In a tweet while commenting on Imran's contradictory claims in the interview, she said in one sentence he said if he was jailed, there would be reaction while in the next sentence he blamed the party's workers and leaders for May 9 mayhem.

This was a lesson for all those who had fallen victim to the misguidance and deception of the misguided Imran Khan, she remarked.

She said Imran Khan himself always indulged in wrongdoings, but whenever he was caught, he blamed others. "From 'one page' to 'I was powerless', from 'United States brought down my government' to 'Mohsin Naqvi brought down my government', the liar has now finally put the debris of May 9 on his party workers and leaders. She maintained that the PTI workers



burnt Pakistan at the instigation of Imran Khan and damaged national dignity and desecrated martyrs' memorials.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that Imran Khan had the habit of blaming others for his own faults.

She said he blamed the party's leaders for illegal foreign funding and failure to provide ten million jobs, failure in building 5 million houses, cipher issue and the unprecedented corruption committed during the PTI regime. She maintained that Imran Khan had crossed all limits of honesty, law and trust.

The minister opined that Imran was the reason behind May 9 tragedy as he had poisoned the minds of his party workers and leaders with hatred since fall of his government last year.

Justice Iqbal takes oath as CJ FSC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Iqbal Hameedur Rehman has taken oath as Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court for a period of three years.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial administered oath to Iqbal Hameedur Rehman Chief Justice Federal Shariat Court Thursday.

The oath taking ceremony was attended by judges of Supreme Court (SC), attorney general and lawyers.



ISLAMABAD: Honourable Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial, Chief Justice of Pakistan administering the oath of office to Honourable Mr. Justice Iqbal Hameedur Rehman, former Judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, as Chief Justice of the Federal Shariat Court at Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Two security personnel martyred in terrorist attack along Pakistan-Iran border

RAWALPINDI (APP): Two soldiers of the Pakistan Army on Thursday embraced martyrdom amid gallantly thwarting the terrorists' attack when a group of terrorists targeted a security forces' post through fire in Singwan Area District Kech of Balochistan along the Pakistan-Iran Border.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, a heavy fire exchange ensued since troops on the post were already alert and responded gallantly with all available weapons.

The security forces pushed back the terrorists successfully however, during the intense fire exchange, two brave soldiers, Sepoy Hasnain Ishtiaq (age 34 yrs resident of District Dera Ghazi Khan) and Sepoy Inayat Ullah (age 27 yrs resident of District Jhal Magsi) embraced Shahadat (martyrdom) while fighting bravely against the terrorists.

The security forces have launched an immediate sanitisation operation in the area and were in communication with Iranian authorities across as well to deny terrorists any opportunity to escape.

"Security Forces, in step with the nation, remain determined to thwart attempts at sabotaging peace and stability all along the borders in Balochistan," the ISPR said.

Meanwhile Minister for Interior Rana Sanaulah Khan Thursday strongly condemned terrorist attack on a security forces' check post in the Singwan area of Balochistan's Kech district, and paid tributes to the martyred soldiers.

In a press statement, he highlighted the professionalism and dedication of the security forces, saying that the successful retreat of the terrorists was a testament to the excellent training the soldiers.



RAWALPINDI: Secretary Defence, Lt Gen (Retd) Hamood Uz Zaman Khan presenting a gift to General Sir Patrick Nicholas, British Army chief of the General Staff, in Ministry of Defence.

Pak, UAE discuss ways to strengthen economic cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates, Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi Thursday called on the Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

During the meeting, they conversed about the deep rooted brotherly ties and discussed various areas of common interest for further strengthening the trade and economic ties between the two countries, said a press statement issued by finance ministry.

The ambassador also reciprocated interest of the UAE government for expanding investment in various sectors of the economy of Pakistan.

Ishaq Dar acknowledged that UAE had been a great partner of Pakistan in various fields including energy, refinery, petroleum and trade.

He appreciated and welcomed the investment proposals of the UAE in Pakistan and assured of complete support and cooperation by the government.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Hamad Obaid Ibrahim Salim Al-Zaabi, Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates called on Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

Woman among five died in Mastung accident

QUETTA (APP): At least five people including a woman died and 10 other sustained injuries in a collision between passenger bus and wagon on National Highway near Jangal Cross area of Mastung district on Thursday.

According to Levies sources, a Khuzdar-bound wagon carrying commuters was on its way when a passenger bus hit it which was coming from the opposite

direction due to overspeeding.

As a result, a woman among four died on the spot while 10 others sustained injuries.

The bodies and the injured were shifted to Shaheed Nawab Ghaus Bakhsh Raisani Hospital where the injured victims' treatments were started. One injured succumbed to his injuries during treatment process.

Rupee recovers sharply in open market trade against USD

KARACHI (Online): Pakistani currency made a remarkable recovery of almost 5.5%, or Rs16, in a single day to a one-week high at Rs295 against the US dollar in the open market at around midday on Thursday.

The currency had closed at Rs311 against the greenback on Wednesday, according to the Exchange Companies Association of Pakistan (ECAP).

Accordingly, the gap in the rupee-dollar exchange rate between interbank and open markets narrowed down to about Rs10 compared to around Rs27 a day ago. In the interbank market, the currency has continued to stabilise around Rs285/\$ for the past couple of weeks.

The widening spread in the value of the rupee between the two markets had led International Monetary Fund (IMF) to recommend the government "focus on restoration of proper foreign exchange market functioning."

OGRA notifies Rs37/Kg cut in LPG price for June

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a notification issued by Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) on Thursday, the prices of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) have been reduced by Rs 37.13 per kilogram for the month of June.

According to the notification, the new price of LPG would be Rs 196.75 per kilogram. Similarly, the price of a standard domestic cylinder of 11.8 kilograms has fallen by Rs438.

The new price of the domestic cylinder would be Rs 2321.22 for the month of June which was set at Rs 2759.89 for the month of May.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Suh Sangpyo, Ambassador of Korea to Pakistan during meeting held at Naval Headquarters in Islamabad.

Pak deeply concerned over India's latest move seeking death penalty for Yasin: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): We are deeply concerned over India's latest move seeking death penalty for prominent Kashmiri leader, Yasin Malik.

This was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in weekly press briefing here Thursday.

She held last year, Yasin Malik was awarded life sentence in a contrived case, marked by fabricated charges and denial of fair trial. He is being held in inhumane conditions in the notorious Tihar jail despite his deteriorating health. Mr. Malik is being denied access to family members, privileged access to lawyers and quality health treatment.

India's latest move is another instance of political vendetta aimed at silencing the Kashmiri leadership and intimidating the Kashmiri people. It is a manifestation of India's unending and pervasive oppression in IIOJK where political leaders and human rights defenders are rou-

tinely incarcerated on trumped up and baseless charges. She remarked we urge the Indian authorities to bring an end to this farce of a trial of Mr. Yasin Malik. He must be provided quality health treatment and allowed to live freely among his people and family. India must also immediately and unconditionally release the Kashmiri leadership and human rights defenders who are being unjustly held in prisons in IIOJK and across India. She held at the invitation of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif will attend the inauguration ceremony of President Erdogan in Ankara on 3rd June 2023.

The Prime Minister's visit will be a reaffirmation of the deep-rooted fraternal ties between Pakistan and Türkiye. The Prime Minister will convey warm felicitations on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan to President Erdogan on his re-election as President of Türkiye on 28 May 2023.

PM Shehbaz says: Pakistan considered Japan as vital partner for its progress & prosperity

Invites Japanese companies to invest in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Thursday said Pakistan considered Japan as an important partner for its progress and prosperity and Japanese companies should avail the immense opportunities for investment in Pakistan.

The PM was speaking to President Toyota Asia Yoshiaki Konishi and Chief Executive Officer of Indus Motors Ali Asghar Jamali who called on him here.

Japan's Ambassador to Pakistan Mitsuhiro Wada, Vice Chairman Toyota Indus Motors Shinji Yanagi, Minister for Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister for Industries and Production Makhdoom Murtza Mehmood, Advisor to PM Ahad Cheema, Special Assistants to PM Jehanzeb Khan and Tariq Bajwa and high ranking officials attended the meeting.

In a briefing, the prime minister was told that

Toyota Indus Motors for the first time established a unit for the production of hybrid vehicles in Pakistan with an investment of \$100 million.

PM Shehbaz Sharif welcomed the project of Toyota to produce hybrid vehicles in Pakistan.

The production of hybrid vehicles in Pakistan would decrease the import bill resulting in saving of precious foreign exchange, he said adding the government was providing

all available facilities to the industries for investment in modern technologies in the country.

The Japanese ambassador said leading Japanese companies were desirous of further investment in Pakistan.

During the briefing, it was told that in the current year from July, Toyota Indus Motors would start export of spare parts of vehicles and these exports would make Pakistan a part of the global supply chain.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Toyota Indus Motors led by President Toyota Asia Mr. Yoshiaki Konishi and CEO Indus Motors Ali Asghar Jamali calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Japanese Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mitsuhiro Wada, Federal Ministers Ishaq Dar, Makhdoom Murtaza Mehmood, SAPMs Jehanzeb Khan and Tariq Bajwa were also present in the meeting.



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar held a meeting with delegation of Islamabad Industrial Association on Budget 2023-24 proposals, at FBR.

Ambassador says: Establishment of Italian Trade Agency office to enhance bilateral trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Italian Ambassador to Pakistan Andrea Ferrarese Thursday expressed hope that establishment of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) office in Islamabad and assignment of the first Italian Trade Director to Pakistan would enhance trade cooperation between the two countries.

"I am pleased to share with you exciting news; that is the establishment of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA) office in Islamabad and the assignment of the first Italian Trade Director to Pakistan would be a major step towards

enhanced trade cooperation between the two countries", the ambassador said in his message on the upcoming celebration of 77th anniversary of the Republic Day, National Day of Italy.

He told the APP "We shall continue to explore the avenues with a focus on agriculture, renewable energy, textiles, construction and tourism. Collaboration in fields of textiles, agriculture, livestock, marble, pharmaceuticals, and mass manufacturing will help enhance Pakistan's industrial scope and

increase exports of value-added goods".

The ambassador further stated that the fifth Italy-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission (JEC) took place on May 29-30 in Rome, where the two sides agreed to establish a joint framework to deal with climate change and cooperation in water management.

He said both sides signed an important "Roadmap for Cooperation" which covered climate change, trade & investment, heritage & culture, agriculture.

FBR collects Rs 605b gross revenues in May

ISLAMABAD (APP): Despite challenges, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) with its tremendous effort collected gross revenues of Rs 605 billion during the month of May, the board said in a statement issued here Thursday. According to the statement, against a target of Rs 621 billion, FBR was able to collect Rs 572 billion net revenue, while refunds amounting to Rs 33 billion were issued during the month.

131 billion in May 2022, thereby showing a growth of 57%. A healthy year-on-year growth of 28% was achieved in the domestic sales tax with collection of almost Rs 100 billion.

Around Rs 41 billion were collected as Federal Excise Duty (FED) showing a year-on-year increase of 32%.

A cumulative growth of almost 44% has been achieved in the collection of domestic taxes.

"This is despite the fact that the economy has slowed down and GDP growth rate has been revised downward.

The board collected Rs 205 billion in May 2023 under the head of domestic income tax compared to Rs



SARGODHA: Student attends classes during Skill Summer Camp 2023 at Government College of Technology for Women.

US Deputy Chief of Mission engages stakeholders on trade, climate, green shipping

ISLAMABAD (APP): US Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Schofer participated in a stakeholder consultation on trade, climate, and green shipping in Pakistan organized by the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

During the discussion, policy makers and private-sector leaders identified existing issues and challenges related to climate change, with a specific focus on promoting green and sustainable shipping practices in Pakistan, said a news release.

The participants developed a c t i o n a b l e recommendations and a common vision for a path forward.

"Through the US-

Pakistan 'Green Alliance' framework, our two countries are jointly preparing to meet the environmental and economic challenges of the future, especially climate change, while spurring sustainable and inclusive economic growth," DCM Schofer said.

He said, "Through events like the one today, we are encouraging bilateral dialogue on climate action, and exploring innovative solutions to build Pakistan's climate resilience." In his keynote address, Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari highlighted the importance of addressing climate change and promoting sustainable shipping practices in Pakistan.



HYDERABAD: Farmers are engaged in harvesting peas in the field.

Meher Kashif says: Trade expansion between Pak, Kyrgyzstan possible

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House Meher Kashif Younis on Thursday said the trade relations between Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan had the potential to grow and expand in various sectors. Talking to the delegation of industrialists led by Faran Shahid, he said, "While the current trade volume between the two countries is relatively modest, there are several areas where both nations can benefit from increased cooperation and trade," said a press release.

He said the bilateral trade between the two countries had historically been limited but has shown potential for growth, adding that in recent years, both countries had expressed their commitment to enhancing trade ties and serious endeavors for improving transportation links, simplifying customs

procedures, and strengthening trade facilitation measures, which can contribute to boosting trade volumes.

He said both countries could also explore opportunities for cooperation in the agricultural, education and pharmaceutical sectors.

Pakistan was known for its agricultural produce, including fruits, vegetables, rice, and textiles, Younis said, adding that Kyrgyzstan, on the other hand, had a rich agricultural base and was known for its exports of walnuts, dried fruits, and honey. "Collaboration in this sector can lead to the exchange of agricultural products and expertise," he emphasised. Meher Kashif Younis said Pakistan had a well-established textile industry, and Kyrgyzstan could benefit from sourcing textiles and apparel products.

World now acknowledging Pakistani youth expertise in IT: IT Minister

Amin inaugurates Pakistani pavilion at GITEK Global Exhibition

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Thursday said that World now acknowledging Pakistani youth expertise in Information Technology and Telecom sector.

Telecom sector by the Government of Pakistan said a news release received here.

The Minister also held an important meeting with Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO), Ms. Deemah Al-Yahya. During the meeting, both sides discussed bilateral issues and measure to enhance digital cooperation between the member states of DCO.

Vice President of Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy, Saeed Al-Gerghavi also met with IT Minister Syed Amin Ul Haque and discussed investment opportunities in IT and telecom sector in Pakistan.

Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Governor of Lagos, Nigeria, also called on Federal Minister for IT Syed Amin Ul Haque.

Federal Minister for Information Technology and Telecom Syed Amin Ul

Haque on Thursday inaugurated the Pakistani pavilion at the GITEK Global Exhibition summit in Morocco.

A three-member Pakistani delegation led by Minister IT Syed Amin Ul Haque comprising Member IT Syed Junaid Imam and Chairman PASHA Zohaib Khan is attending GITEK Africa Digital Summit, said a news release.

About 14 tech companies, 10 start-ups and more than 200 IT experts from Pakistan are participating in GITEK-23 Exhibition in Morocco for the first time.

Former Minister for IT and Transport of Morocco Rabbah Aziz, Huawei Africa President Colin Hu and many prominent personalities and Global tech leaders visited Pakistan's Pavilion and showed their great interest in the items displayed at the pavilion.

The meetings discussed global challenges including revolutionary initiatives in the IT &



MOROCCO: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque in a meeting with Secretary General Digital Cooperation Organization (DCO) Ms. Deemah Al-Yahya on the Sidelines of GITEK Africa Digital Summit.

Acting Chinese envoy calls on Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Acting Charge d'Affairs, Embassy of the People's Republic of China Ms Bao Zhong Thursday called on Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed matters of mutual interest.

The minister highlighted the deep-rooted, long-standing bilateral ties between Pakistan and China, and appreciated the Chinese support to Pakistan on multiple fronts, said a press release.

He also apprised the envoy of the economic situation of the country and the progress in the ongoing IMF programme.

Ms Bao Zhong reciprocated the sentiments about the strong bilateral ties between the two countries.

FTO disposes of 2,297 complaints in 4 months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) disposed of around 2,297 tax-related complaints during January-April 2023, showing an increase of 64.42 per cent compared to the same period of last year (2022).

According to an official document available with APP, compared to the corresponding months of 2021 during which the FTO Secretariat disposed of 769 cases, the disposal rate witnessed a 198.6 per cent increase in 2023.

"A comparison of first four months (January to April) shows a remarkable upward trend visa-a-vis registration and disposal of complaints,"

says a quarterly report released here by the FTO.

According to the report, as many as 2,467 complaints were registered during 2023 compared to registration of 1,784 in 2022 and 903 in 2021, posting a considerable growth of 38.28 per cent and 173.2 per cent against 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Due to consistent efforts and effective coordination with the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), implementation of FTO recommendations jumped to 1,513 in 2023, showing an upward trend of 172.6 per cent compared to 555 in 2022 and 179.6 per cent compared to 541 in 2021, the report says.

PSX loses 63 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) lost 63.79 points on Thursday, a slight negative change of 0.15 per cent, closing at 41,266.77 points against 41,330.56 points the previous day. A total of 99,950,613 shares were traded during the day as compared to 158,102,664 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs.2.867 billion against Rs.6.167 billion on the last trading day. As many as 303 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.

Ufone 4G connects pilgrims through its industry-best Hajj Data Roaming Offer

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani telecom operator, Ufone 4G is providing seamless data connectivity through its industry-best and most competitive 'Hajj Data Roaming Offer' to its prepaid customers travelling to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) for Hajj.

The exceptionally affordable offer comes with generous allocations of data volume and allows exclusive access to WhatsApp calls for un restricted communication with friends and family back

home said a news release.

The offer has been designed to provide a worry-free user experience to Ufone 4G customers during the pilgrimage.

The large volume of data allows for easy exchange of photos, videos and video calls from the Holy land so the pilgrims can virtually include their friends and family in the blessed experience. Customers may choose from three data buckets of varying volume depending upon their budget and need. Each of these bundles has a validity of 30 days.



SIALKOT: Shoab Sarwar Ambassador posted at the Embassy of Pakistan in Denmark in a group photograph with Muhammad Ejaz Ch, chairman PGMEA and Gloves exporters at PGMEA.

President Alvi for boosting cooperation to synergise efforts for differently abled children

KARACHI (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi, on Thursday, stressed upon coordination and cooperation among all stakeholder and organisations working for differently abled children to synergise their efforts so that rehabilitation of special children could be carried out in a holistic and inclusive manner.

The president expressed these views in a meeting with representatives of Association of Retarded Children Karachi (ARCK) here at Sindh Governor House.

First Lady Begum Samina Arif Alvi was also present in the meeting.

Dr. Arif Alvi noted that government as well as charitable organisations had taken a range of measures for rehabilitation, education and vocational training of special children and their financial empowerment and integration in the society.

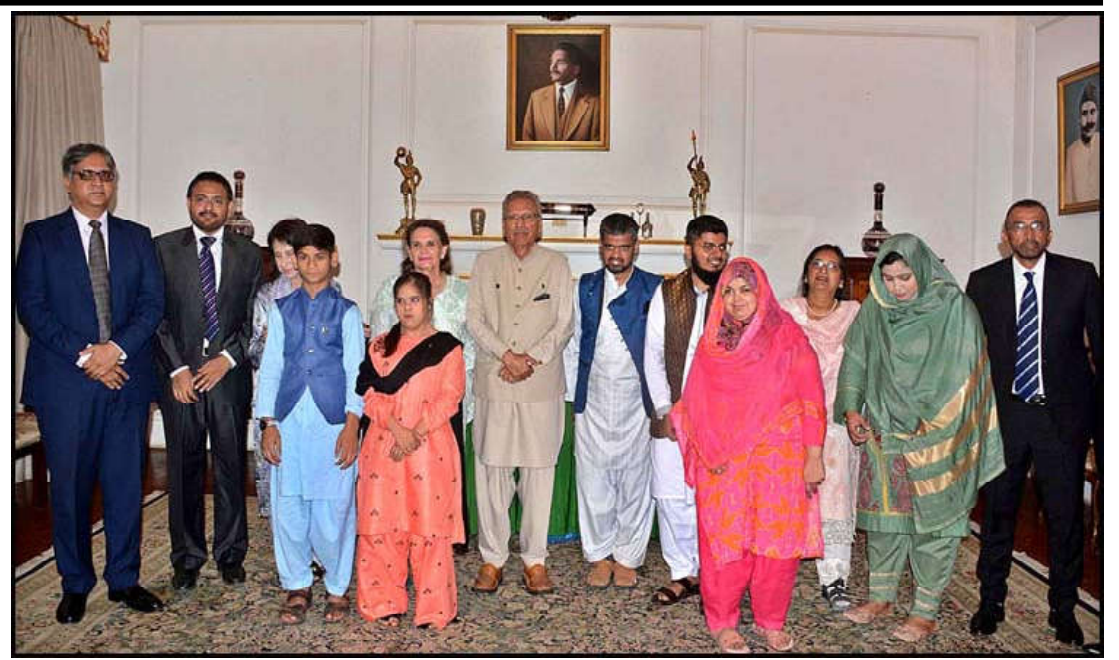
He said that differently-abled children above the age of 9 years could be registered with NADRA with special status that enabled their access to special facilities being offered by the government.

Awareness about the special children and their specific needs had raised in

previous years but considering the number of such children in the country more initiatives and interventions were required, he maintained.

The president appreciated ARCK for its contributions for the cause of education, training and rehabilitation of retarded children for more than 50 years and encouraged the association to look into possibility of joining other organisations working for the same cause to strengthen their efforts and outreach.

Begum Samina Arif Alvi, at the occasion, also emphasized the need of co-



KARACHI: President Dr. Arif Alvi and Begum Samina Arif Alvi posing for a group photo with delegation of Association of Retarded Children Karachi and special children at Governor House.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Education, Professional Training Rana Tanveer Hussain in a group photograph with students during his visit at Pakistan Sweet Home.

Siachen glacier world's highest battlefield melting faster: Sherry Rehman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday said Siachen was the highest battlefield in the world, and the Siachen glacier was melting very fast which was directly jeopardising the local communities facing severe glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).

She was addressing the concluding session of the second day of the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit titled "Changing Narratives".

Senator Rehman said when glacial lakes erupt, they wash away bridges and small dams. The government was informing the local communities on im-

Pak Navy Ship conducts rescue operation in Arabian Sea

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) SAIF while carrying out routine patrolling in the Arabian Sea, expeditiously responded to a distress call by a stranded Fishing Vessel AL ZUBAIR and saved the valuable lives of six fishermen.

The fishing vessel had suffered engine failure and subsequent flooding due to rough sea conditions, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

PNS SAIF swiftly responded to the distress call at night and safely recovered six stranded fishermen.

Medical assistance was provided onboard and the fishermen were subsequently shifted to Gwadar. The fishermen's community has lauded the efforts of the Pakistan Navy in saving precious lives at sea.

Pakistan Navy, besides ensuring combat readiness at all times, remains vigilant to contribute to ensuring the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) through sustained presence and monitoring of activities within the Maritime Zones of Pakistan.

Calls on Air Chief Uzbek Envoy lauds professionalism of PAF personnel

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Aybek Arif Usmanov called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu and lauded the professionalism of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) personnel here on Thursday.

The meeting was focused on areas of mutual interest and regional developments, a PAF news release said.

During the meeting, the Chief of the Air Staff shared his pragmatic policy decisions aimed at modernizing Pakistan Air Force through the smart acquisition of niche technologies, upgradation of infrastructure and revitalization of operational and training domains.

The Air Chief emphasized the longstanding reli-

Ahsan emphasizes portraying positive image of country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, Ahsan Iqbal Thursday emphasized portraying a positive image of the country.

The minister advised the youth to keep their self-esteem high adding that the rhetoric of portraying the Pakistani nation as corrupt must be discouraged as it has damaged the self-esteem of people of Pakistan.

"Pakistanis are not a corrupt nation, our leaders must portray a positive image of the country", he said during an inauguration ceremony of the academic blocks in the male and female campuses of the International Islamic University Islamabad (IIU).

These blocks are part of PC-I "Expansion and Up-gradation of International Islamic University, Islamabad" worth Rs. 2.5 Billion.

The PC-I addresses the need to strengthen and upgrade the University's academic infrastructure and establishment/ up-gradation of Labs to meet the ever-growing student strength in almost all programs offered at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels.

The new block at male campus will accommodate around 2000 students per shift of the civil engineering and Faculty of Social Sciences, while the second block in the female campus will accommodate around 3000 students per shift of the Faculty of Management Sciences and Social Sciences. Under this PSDP project, in addition to these inaugurated blocks, there are four more under construction buildings including Shared Academic block, Library building, Shariah hostel, medical center.

There is also provision of lab equipment, furniture and transport. The Campus Management Sys-



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman addressing the concluding session of the second day of the Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit.

Jails lacking amenities; steps are to be taken to resolve issues of prisoners, says Ejaz Qureshi

Report to be compiled on jail reforms on SC directives:

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Federal Ombudsman, Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi has pointed out that our jails are lacking desired amenities and as such the necessary steps are to be taken to resolve the issues being confronted by the jail inmates.

He said that the matters related to the jail reforms are continuously being monitored, and a report would be compiled on the jail reforms on directives of the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

106 social media accounts blocked on request of I'abad police

ISLAMABAD (APP): Around 106 social media accounts have been blocked on the request of Islamabad police for promoting sectarianism, and propaganda against state institutions.

According to an Islamabad Police spokesperson, the step was taken in response to the findings of the Provisional of Violent Extremism Unit (PVE) of the capital police's Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD).

It is worth mentioning here that PVE is monitoring the social media accounts involved in different illegal activities, including sectarianism, anti-state, terrorism, and anti-Islam.

Police said that the unit had recommended to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to block 203 accounts, out of which 106 had been blocked by now.

Attaullah Tarar says Imran directly responsible for May 9 mayhem

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Interior Attaullah Tarar on Thursday held Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan responsible for the May 9 acts of arson and vandalism.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad, he said the PTI chairman had directed the party leaders to strongly react in case of his arrest in a corruption case against him.

Imran Khan did what the enemy of Pakistan could not do in 75 years, said Tarar, adding Imran Khan later did negative propaganda on social media against the arrests made by law enforcement agencies (LEAs).

"Imran Khan tweeted fake videos from his account and later deleted," said Tarar, adding he in an interview with the BBC admitted that the May 9 violent acts were in response to his arrest.

He owned those incidents and justified violent acts of targeting memorials and military installations, said SAPM, adding the PTI chairman stood exposed before the masses.

He said the violent acts were a well-thought-out conspiracy to target the memorials and military installations. He said the attack on military installations was an attack on the country's security.

The special assistant said the PTI chairman is now resorting to venomous and fake propaganda about the current situation in the country.

He rejected the reports of custodial torture of women saying that the detainees are being treated as per the prison manuals.

Tareen decides to go to London to meet Nawaz

ISLAMABAD (Online): Jahanvir Tareen has decided to go to London to meet Nawaz Sharif for consultation on future electoral strategy and removal of Nawaz Sharif reservations.

On the other hand Jahanvir Tareen has completed his contacts with former members of national and provincial assembly of PTI have been completed.

Jahanvir Tareen is all set on his mission of carving out new political party.

Over 50 former members of National Assembly and senators of PTI have assured their support to Jahanvir Tareen.



ISLAMABAD: Chakkril Krachaiwong, Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Sanjrani, Thai Envoy discuss matters of mutual interest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and Ambassador of Thailand to Pakistan Chakkril Krachaiwong here on Thursday discussed matters of mutual interest, focusing on further enhancing the close and cordial relations between the two countries.

Acknowledging the longstanding bond between the two countries, the Chairman expressed his appreciation for the monuments preserved in Pakistan, which have played a pivotal role in fostering a lasting and robust relationship between the nations.

The ambassador highlighted the significant role played by thousands of Pakistanis residing in Thailand, acting as a bridge to connect both nations said a news release.

During the meeting, both parties emphasized the need to strengthen bilateral relations across various sectors, including investment, education, science, and technology.

Foundation stone laying ceremony of Sangjani PS building held

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The foundation stone laying ceremony for the construction of a new building of Police Station Sangjani was held here, which would have modern facilities for policemen and to help them in carrying out the operational activities effectively. The ceremony was attended by DIG Operations Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari, while DPO Saddar Zone and a large number of police officials as well as community members were present on the occasion. With the introduction of the new police station, the demarcation of boundaries has also been adjusted. As per the revised demarcation, the area along both sides of the road from Jarnol Railway Crossing to Sangjani.



ISLAMABAD (APP): National Highways and Motorway Police (NHMP) on Thursday foiled an attempt to smuggle a large quantity of drugs near Burhan Interchange on the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway, recovering 17 kg of opium and 41 kg of hashish.

According to an NHMP spokesperson, the officers signaled a suspicious vehicle coming from Peshawar to stop, but the driver fled the scene. The NHMP officers chased the suspicious vehicle and near Burhan Interchange, the driver escaped the scene while leaving the vehicle behind on the road. During a search huge quantity of drugs was recovered from the suspected vehicle.

Motorway police foil drugs smuggling bid

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Pilgrims satisfied with Ministry's preparation for Hajj

Makkah Mukarama (APP): The intending pilgrims of the government hajj scheme were filled with enthusiasm and commended the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony for their sincere efforts in addressing their concerns.

In an interview with APP, they also appreciated Pak Hajj Mission's dedicated efforts in promptly addressing any issues that arose.

After arriving in Makkah Mukarama from Madina Munawara, the pilgrims conveyed their deep attachment to Madinah, where they had experienced a life-changing journey during their eight-day stay.

Talking to APP, they said their primary purpose in Makkah was to perform Hajj, and they expressed gratitude towards the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, as well as the staff of the Pakistan Hajj Mission and the Moavineen e Hujaj, for their sincere efforts in addressing their concerns and guiding them in accordance with the Sunnah of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH).

Rana Ramzan, one of the intending pilgrims, praised the exceptional management of Senator Talha Mehmood, the minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, highlighting the outstanding performance of the ministry's team.

Rana Ramzan also expressed deep appreciation for the Moavineen e Hujaj, recognising their invaluable guidance and unwavering support throughout the entire stay in Madinah.

The quality of food provided during their stay in Madinah was excellent, and Rana Ramzan earnestly prayed for the prosperity and welfare of the country.

FDE announces summer vacation from June 10

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Directorate of Education (FDE) has announced summer vacation for all the public sector educational institutions in the federal capital from June 10 to July 31.

According to a notification issued by the FDE, the educational institutions will reopen on August 01 for the session 2023-24. The summer vacations will be fully utilized to manage physical verification of stock/ stock checking, repair and maintenance of furniture/ buildings/playgrounds, and in-house CPD in the last week of July.

Islamabad police arrange workshop on road safety for students

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: Islamabad Capital Police arranged a workshop for students of Islamabad Model School for Boys F-8/3, to acquaint them with road safety tips and better awareness about traffic rules.

More than 300 students attended the workshop and efforts of the force in ensuring a safe road environment in the city were highlighted.

The Education Wing of Islamabad Capital Police informed the students as to how special measures are being taken to curb various traffic violations in the city and also informed about traffic rules and regulations.

It was informed that educational teams of police visit various organizations as this exercise is helpful in providing a disciplined traffic system to the masses. It was told that personnel of the force have not only helped to establish a disci-



plined traffic system in the Capital but also reduced the ratio of accidents.

They were briefed about the history of the traffic police force, its targets and achievements. Students were told about safety measures while walking along the road, road crossing code, causes of accidents and how to protect oneself, defensive driving and its requirements, practice to prevent risky situations on road, planning for a long journey, positioning car or lane discipline, right of way on junctions and road markings, safe overtaking, traffic sign boards and traffic light signals and perils of using mobile phone and not fastening seat belts while driving.

On the occasion, a message of Chief Traffic Officer Dr. Syed Mustafa Tanveer was also read who termed public cooperation vital to ensure a safe road environment.