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QUETTA: Chief of the Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir enquiring about health of soldier injured in Zhob Garrison attack at CMH Quetta

COAS General Asim Munir says Armed Forces concerned on safe havens, liberty to TTP in Afghanistan

It is expected that the interim Afghan government would not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country: Involvement of Afghan nationals in acts of terrorism in Pakistan was another important concern that needed to be addressed

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Friday said the Armed Forces of Pakistan had serious concerns on the safe havens and liberty of action available to the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) in Afghanistan.

The army chief made these remarks during his visit to Quetta Garrison

where he was briefed on the recent terrorist attack in Zhob, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), a news release said.

The COAS paid tributes to the Shuhada (martyrs), visited the injured soldiers at CMH, Quetta, lauded their services to the nation and appreciated their resolve. General Munir said, "It is expected that the interim

Afghan Government will not allow the use of its soil to perpetrate terror against any country, in the real sense and in line with commitments made in Doha Agreement."

He further said that the involvement of Afghan nationals in acts of terrorism in Pakistan was another important concern that needed to be addressed. "Such attacks are intolerable and will elicit an effective response from the Security Forces of Pakistan," he added.

He resolved that operations against terrorists would continue unabated and the Armed Forces would not rest till the menace of terrorism was rooted out from the country. Earlier on arrival, the COAS was received by the Commander Quetta Corps.

PM breaks ground on \$3.48 bn Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit-5

MIANWALI (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday broke ground on the 1200 MW Chashma Nuclear Power Plant Unit 5 (C-5) here which is likely to be completed in seven to eight years at a cost of around US\$3.48 billion.

On June 30, 2023 the prime minister had witnessed the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the C-5 project between China National Nuclear Corporation Overseas Ltd (CNOS) and Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC).

Addressing the ground breaking ceremony, the prime minister said keeping in mind the country's requirements of clean and cheap energy sources, the project should be completed

before the given schedule. Terming it a huge milestone and a symbol of cooperation between the two great friends China and Pakistan, Shehbaz Sharif said the project would help the country promoting clean, efficient and comparatively cheaper energy.

He said after a pause of many years, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) was going again in full swing. He gave the credit of concluding the agreement of C-5 to the coalition government and the SPD for their hard efforts.

"Our detractors had been fabricating rumours all around that Pakistan was going to default on its sovereign commitments but we crossed all turbulent waters in just 15 months," he added.

However, he said the risk of potential default had been completely averted through team effort of the government.

The prime minister said a couple of days ago, there was an approval of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) programme and with in 48 hours around \$4.5 billion were transferred by the Pakistan's brotherly countries Saudi Arabia and UAE besides another \$1.2 billion from the IMF.

About 4 months ago, he said the Chinese government and commercial banks rolled over amounts back to Pakistan to the tune of \$5 billion.

He paid his tributes to the Chinese President Xi Jinping, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and UAE President

Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for their support in need of the hour.

He informed that as a result of serious efforts by the coalition government and himself, the Chinese company kept the cost of the project at the level agreed upon in 2017-18 by then PML-N government and not include the average inflation of around 10% in the project cost. Further, he said on his request, a discount of Rs 30 billion was also given to Pakistan which reflected a sense of sincerity between the two countries.

Charge D'affaires of the Chinese embassy in Pakistan, Pang Chunxue said C5 would help Pakistan building low carbon, clean and cheap energy which would also produce local

jobs and would engage the local industries to contribute in need of the hour.

Chairman of China National Nuclear Cooperation Yu Jianfeng said cooperation between Pakistan and China in nuclear energy had become an integral part of the all weather strategic cooperative partnership.

He said the C5 project was a significant milestone in the HPR 1000 development global journey. Hualong One (HPR 1000) is the 3rd-generation nuclear power brand to which China has exclusive intellectual property rights.

Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal, Energy Minister Khurram Dasgir Khan, and Chairman PAEC Dr Raja Ali Raza were also present on the occasion.



MIANWALI: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, Federal Ministers, dignitaries of China and PAEC officials performing the ground breaking of the 5th Unit of Chashma Nuclear Power plant (C-5) in Chashma.

PML-N to field candidates in all constituencies of Punjab: Rana Sanaullah

LAHORE (APP): Interior Minister and Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) Punjab President Rana Sanaullah on Friday said the party had formally launched its election activities and it would field candidates in all constituencies of the province.

Addressing a press conference at the party secretariat in Model Town, he said the PML-N had a strong organizational set-up at division, district and union council levels in the Punjab province.

Rana Sanaullah said the party meeting was called to discuss the agenda of effective participation in the upcoming general election, and fielding of candidates in all the Punjab and National Assembly constituencies.

There were a total of 297 Punjab Assembly and 141 NA constituencies in the province, and the PML-N would not leave any of them

uncontested, he added. The minister said the Muslim League was the founding party of Pakistan, which after a long journey since its creation, stabilized the country on strong footing. He said the PML-N Quaid Nawaz Sharif, by conducting the nuclear tests

on May 28, 1998, had further stabilized Pakistan. However, the world then imposed sanctions on the country, but it was Nawaz Sharif who as prime minister at that time steered it out of the crises, he added. He said had the "October 12, 1999 adventure" [Musharraf martial law] not been happened, today Pakistan would have been a developed country, with no jobless people. Pakistan was going to become an



Asian tiger, but it was pushed into crises under a conspiracy with the ousting of Nawaz Sharif and his party from power, he added.

Khurshid Shah says
When Imran says he is going to meet Zardari then we will sit with him

LAHORE (Online): PPP senior leader and federal minister Khurshid Ahmad has said when Imran Khan ego breaks and he says he is ready to sit then PPP will sit with him and bring him to politics.

"political parties never escape negotiations. PPP never runs away from negotiations. Talks are held with enemy country. Imran Khan escapes talks and he has never held talks, he said this in an interview here Friday.

"If Imran Khan says he is going to meet Asif Ali Zardari and political parties should unite. Then we will sit with him and bring him to politics, he added.

We will teach Imran Khan democracy and tell him about the integrity and

solidarity of Pakistan. He had extended invitation to Imran Khan for talks and charter of economy. Why did this situation arise. He has always said opposition is seeking NRO, he added. "whosoever considers PTI political party is innocent. There is tremendous difference in the attitude of PTI and a political party. Political party will never say destroy the institutions and launch arson attack, he remarked. Replying to a question he said consensus has developed in ruling alliance on the tenure of caretaker government and date of dissolution of assembly. All coalition parties are agreed on tenure of caretaker government and dissolution of assembly.

US doesn't interfere in Pakistan's political matters: Ambassador

Monitoring Desk PESHAWAR : Donald Blome, the United States ambassador to Pakistan, said the US doesn't interfere in Pakistan's political matters. Geo News reported quoting him.

The ambassador's remarks came during a ceremony in Peshawar where the US Agency for International Development (USAID) provided \$5 million worth of equipment to

the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Board of Revenue, augmenting its capacity for accurate land measurements, said a communiqué.

Following the recent International Monetary Fund's (IMF) approval of a programme for Pakistan's support, the US has been welcoming towards the agreement between the country and the money-lending institution.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi meeting with a delegation of Overseas Pakistanis.

Chief Justice underlines importance of comprehensive strategy to control population

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial on Friday underlined the importance of a comprehensive strategy to control the rapid increase in the country's population, saying the United Nations (UN) was also assisting Pakistan in that regard.

He was addressing the opening session of a two-day national conference on "Resilient Pakistan: Calibrating Population and Resources", organized by the Law and Justice Commission of Pakistan. The CJP said the purpose of fundamental rights in the Constitu-

tion was also the happiness of the people and it was the state's responsibility to take care of the health and needs of the mother and child.

How Iran and Bangladesh overcame the population problem was a case study, he said, adding there was a need for education and training of the population and "it is more important to make the population beneficial".

CJP Bandial said it was not appropriate to leave the responsibility of every matter to the government. He, however, added that the provision of basic human

rights under the Constitution could bring happiness to the people.

"The Constitution of Pakistan not only gives the right to live but also ensures good quality of life, but also protects the fundamental right of employment," he added. The Constitution was not only a protector of rights regarding individual but also family life, he said.

He said in Article 35 of the Constitution, which is related to (Principle of Policy), it was stated that "the state will have the responsibility to take care of the child, his mother and the family."

Overseas Pakistanis playing key role in socio-economic dev. of country: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday said the overseas Pakistanis were playing important role in socio-economic development of the country.

In a meeting with the delegation of Overseas Pakistanis led by Dr Nasr Shahid here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said the overseas Pakistanis were working to promote the better image of their country in the respect-

ive host countries. He said the country was passing through economic challenges that needed to be resolved by collective efforts.

President Alvi said besides working for their own country, the overseas Pakistanis were also playing role in development of the host countries. He urged them to put more efforts for economic development of Pakistan.

Speaker NA says:
Turkish people's struggle to defend democracy to be remembered in history

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker of National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf Friday said the 15th July episode of the failed coup attempt in Türkiye, was bravely defended by the Turkish people as 250 people sacrificed their lives to save democracy and to protect their rights and freedom.

It is indeed a historic example and a great message to the entire world that nothing can harm a democratic order if it is tested and then trusted by the people.

He made the remarks while addressing the 7th commemoration ceremony of the martyred of the July 15, 2016, thwarted coup attempt by Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organisation (FETO) and Democracy and National Unity Day.

Mariyum, Kaira, Kundi visit NPC to condole death of mothers of Afzal, Khaleeq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb, Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs Qamar Zaman Kaira and Minister of State for Poverty Alleviation Faisal Karim Kundi on Friday visited the National Press Club to offer condolences over the death of mothers of Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) President Muhammad Afzal Butt and senior journalist Khaleeq Kiani.

They expressed their deep grief and sorrow over their mothers' death. Speaking on the occasion, Mariyum Aurangzeb said a mother was a "priceless gift" from the Almighty. She was deeply saddened over the death of the mothers of Afzal Butt and Khaleeq Kiani, and shared their grief and that of their bereaved families, she added.

Musharraf petition fixed for hearing after his death
ISLAMABAD (Online): Former president Gen (Retd) Pervez Musharraf petition has been fixed for hearing in Supreme Court (SC) after his death.

Pervez Musharraf had challenged the decision of rejection of his nomination papers in election-2013. His appeal plea was filed on April 06, 2013. Now this appeal plea has been fixed for hearing. A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) will take up appeal plea filed by former president Pervez Musharraf against rejection of his nomination papers for hearing on July 20. Ataf Shakoor, president Paspas Pakistan had filed petition on April 06, 2013 in Election Commission seeking rejection of nomination papers of candidate Pervez Musharraf from Karachi constituency NA-250

European Parliament adopts joint resolution on India's human rights breaches

ISLAMABAD (APP): The European Parliament has strongly urged India to take necessary measures to promptly halt the ongoing ethnic and religious violence, protect all religious minorities such as Manipur's Christian community, and pre-empt any further escalation.

The joint resolution was adopted on Thursday following recent violent clashes in the state of Manipur, India since May 2023 that left at least 120 people dead, 50,000 displaced, and over 1,700 houses and 250 churches destroyed.

The resolution noted that intolerance towards minority communities had contributed to the current violence and there were concerns about the politically motivated, divisive policies that promote Hindu majoritarianism in the

area. The Manipur state government has shut down internet connections and severely hindered reporting by the media, while security forces have been implicated in the recent killings, something that has further increased distrust in the authorities.

The Members of the European Parliament called on the Indian authorities to allow independent investigations to look into the violence, tackle impunity and to lift the internet ban. They also urged all conflicting sides to cease making inflammatory statements, re-establish trust and play an impartial role to mediate the tensions.

The Parliament reiterated its call for human rights to be integrated into all areas of the EU-India partnership, including trade.

Load shedding reaches 14 hours in different areas of country

ISLAMABAD (Online): Due to intense heat wave load-shedding reached 14 hours in different areas of country. Short fall of electricity has been recorded as 6188 megawatts.

According to power division, the overall production of electricity is 21312 megawatts, while 27500 megawatts electricity is required across country. The production of hydroelectricity is 8800 megawatts.

Government thermal power plants are generating 850 megawatts of electricity. The production of electricity in private sector power plants is 8833 megawatts.

The production of electricity by wind power plants is 208 megawatts. The production of electricity by solar power plants is 103 megawatts. 107 megawatts electricity is being generated from bagasse.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Only a 'breather'

Lest we forget amid the euphoria over the new \$3bn IMF loan, Pakistan, with 23 bailouts, has been the most frequent customer of the lender of last resort for many years.

And we're likely to maintain this distinction for the next several years even if we start right away fixing our economy's structural problems, which take us to the brink and the IMF every few years.

The fact that Pakistan has completed only one programme successfully — that too without fully achieving its targets — inspires little confidence in the capability and resolve of our leadership to take us to the 'finish line' under the new nine-month facility either. They have repeatedly demonstrated their impatience with shortcuts to growth for political mileage, breaching the agreements with the lender midway.

That said, the critical importance of the new IMF bailout for the country's flagging economy can't be overstated. The IMF board signing off on the loan has already brightened up the economy. Fears of a sovereign default before the end of 2023 have receded, and Pakistan's dollar bonds have rallied rapidly since the initial approval of the agreement on June 29. The rupee has strengthened against the dollar, the stock market is jubilant, Fitch has upgraded Pakistan's credit rating by a notch, and the Saudis and Emiratis have deposited the promised \$2bn and \$1bn, respectively, to shore up SBP's forex reserves.

The government is dubbing these developments as indicators of economic recovery, claiming the 'hard times' are over. Well, yes, the hard times may be behind us for the moment. But does this bailout signify the end of our problems? It doesn't. It gives us a few stable months to conduct the elections and service external debt over the next six months, but doesn't really change the fundamentals of the economy such as insufficient tax revenues, low exports, import-based consumption, and so on. However, it can help us get back on our feet if we use this 'breather' as a bridge to broad-based reforms for longer-term debt sustainability and growth. We're in the deepest ever crisis of our own making and living on borrowed money and time. We've avoided tough decisions for too long, hoping the world would bail us out. No more. There is no way around reforms. No matter how painful they may be, it'd still be worth it in the end.

RIP my 'book mate'



Zubeida Mustafa

For over 30 years we shared the same passion — our love of books. That means both of us loved to read and treasure them, though our tastes and even the language we liked to read in were different. But such is the magic of books — that they create a very special bond that never breaks. Now I feel bereft, for Sabahat Kalim, my 'book mate', is no more. She passed away on June 25 leaving her loving family devastated.

I first met Sabahat in 1990 when I was interviewing people in my search for a professional librarian for Dawn. The editor had requested me to oversee the library as he felt that a journalist would understand the newspaper's needs. In three years, I was frustrated. The first two librarians who were hired just couldn't rise to our expectations. One was too slow, and the other was too quick in outside matters. In my third attempt I was lucky. Among those who responded to my call was a young woman whose remarkable confidence and knowledge bowled me over. Then there was no looking back. Thus began Sabahat's long association with Dawn and me. She proved to be an asset for the newspaper — the journalists as well as members of the management and the marketing department. She was the most sought after person from every floor of Haroon House, and she vindicated my choice. Sabahat did her

profession proud. She could well be described as the role model for aspiring young librarians. Her first commitment was to make information promptly accessible for the reader who could be a leader writer in a hurry demanding the details of an event that happened 50 years ago. And all this was in the pre-internet days when thumbing through Keesings' Contemporary Archives, Who is Who and the newspaper clipping files was the only way of meeting our information needs and deadline constraints.

It was remarkable how Sabahat used her imagination and her aesthetic skills to make the library a pleasant place that attracted readers. The books were neatly catalogued and over 400 clipping files enabled a reader to trace any news that had appeared in the press. Sabahat's greatest achievement, that I believe is unparalleled in Pakistan, is Dawn's newspaper index. When the newspaper was computerised there came the opportunity to make an index, which is every library's dream. It is a challenging task, but I never doubted her potential to do the job and she did it. She had a natural instinct to dig out information and arrange it in such a way that it could be easily retrieved. Only a researcher would appreciate what Sabahat launched. In Dawn's index you can search for something specific and you will find specifically what you are looking for. You are not confronted with a million or more irrelevant suggested answers as happens when you use Google. Full credit for designing and creating the index and sustaining it goes to Sabahat. She alone had the resilience to do it, and redo it when a file

was corrupted. Dawn earned a reputation of being a haven for researchers who flocked here in search of material for their theses/books from far and wide.

She was interesting company and her knowledge of Urdu literature, especially poetry, was phenomenal as was her interest in qawwali. But more than a friend, she was a person you knew you could fall back on. She was more concerned about my visual disability and quietly facilitated me by ensuring that I had all the information I needed for whatever I was writing about. Her skill as an indexer benefited many authors, and I feel honoured that she made the index for all my books as she had promised. When friendship and professional cooperation combine, one could not be more fortunate.

True to her name (meaning beauty), she had a beautiful heart. Kind and generous to a fault, she always responded to a cry for help. Whether it was an ill friend in need of company or a domestic aide's child who needed medical care, Sabahat was always there to help. I remember once she told me about a girl of 12 who had burnt her leg that was not treated. As she grew older, it became difficult for the child to even walk normally or go to school. Not only would Sabahat accompany the child to the hospital until needed, she followed up this kind deed by supporting the family monetarily for several months as the child was badly malnourished. That was not all. Thanks to Sabahat the girl recovered fully, completed her education and was married. How many lives she made better we may never know, for the help she extended was quiet but practical. -- Courtesy Dawn

Unsafe spaces



Shazia Nizamani

Violence against women takes many forms — including rape, murder, sexual harassment, domestic violence and child and forced marriages — and is prevalent in Pakistan. Women are not safe in their homes, in public or in their workplaces. Just a few cases from the month of May, as reported in the newspapers, can help in understanding the gravity of the issue.

During the month, a father killed his 19-year-old daughter on the suspicion that she was having an affair. A young woman was shot dead by her brother in Karachi's upscale DHA neighbourhood. A man who recently returned from Dubai killed his wife over a petty domestic dispute in Wazirabad, Punjab. A newlywed woman was shot dead by her father in City Courts, Karachi, where she had arrived to record a statement confirming that she had entered a free-will marriage. In the same month, a man opened fire at his ex-wife in City Courts Karachi after the hearing of a child custody case. In another gruesome incident, a 20-year-old woman was burnt alive in the name of 'honour' in Jhang, Punjab. The National Commission for Human Rights (NCHR) released a policy brief on March 8, 2023, according to which around 63,000 cases of gender-based violence (GBV) had been reported in Pakistan over the past three years, with some 4,000 being reported in the first half of 2020 when lockdowns were first imposed to curb the spread of Covid-19. The NCHR, quoting

Ministry of Human Rights data, said 80 per cent of these cases were related to domestic violence, while some 47pc pertained to domestic rape, wherein married women experienced sexual abuse. The data was based on reported cases; the actual number is feared to be much higher.

According to the US-based National Library of Medicine, only 3.2pc of women who experience domestic violence actually report it in Pakistan. In rural areas, the prevalence of physical violence against women is 56pc. In contrast, the lifetime prevalence in urban environments is 57.6pc physical, 54.5pc sexual, and 83.6pc psychological.

The UN Children's Fund, Unicef, estimates that around 19 million girls in Pakistan are married off before the age of 18 and 4.6m before 15. Married girls are often forced into dangerous pregnancies at a young age and pregnancies that are too closely spaced. Women from religious minority communities remain particularly vulnerable to forced marriage, and very little has been done to stop child and forced marriages.

According to the Domestic Health Survey, women with higher education attainment are more likely to seek help to end violence (46pc) compared to women with no education (25pc). These statistics indicate the importance of female education in encouraging reporting of violence and abuse and seeking legal help. The data proves that there are higher chances of educated women reporting a case as they may have better knowledge of relevant laws and how to seek help from relevant legal forums.

Women generally feel discouraged from reporting incidents or filing cases due to a lack of female officers at police stations, the generally unfriendly and hostile environment in our policing system, the high fees demanded by lawyers for filing suits, and the prospect of lengthy court proceedings. A strong perception still prevails among a large section of the police and judiciary that domestic violence is a private matter and should be resolved at the family level.

Several laws on domestic violence, honour killings, harassment at workplaces and early child marriages are in place, but implementation and application of these laws remains weak or negligible. The basic challenges are addressing a lack of awareness about the relevant laws; the societal acceptance of GBV; the prevalent patriarchal mindset; lack of support from society and state in the form of shelter homes, provision of legal aid, and more; as well as the stigma attached to women who refuse to live in abusive relationships.

The existing laws need to be implemented in their true spirit by building capacity in law enforcement agencies, particularly the police, and sensitising the judiciary, lawyers, media and health professionals on GBV. There should be well-planned and well-organised awareness campaigns for the education and sensitisation of both women and men on GBV as well as on the laws made to counter it. A grievance and redressal mechanism at the district level must be established, covering legal aid and helpline services, facilitation in complaint registration, as well as protection and rehabilitation of victims. The condition of shelter homes, particularly the Darul Amans, needs to be improved. The Constitution guarantees the right to life and dignity to citizens; women, as equal citizens of Pakistan, are entitled to the protection of these rights by the state. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Chinese Companies keen to set up joint ventures in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chinese manufacturers companies on Friday visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields.

A delegation of Chinese companies led by Gan Meilin, Chairman, Xiandeng Hi-Tech Electric Co. visited Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (ICCI) and showed keen interest to set up joint ventures in Pakistan in various fields including machinery manufacturing, electric vehicles, equipment industry, drilling, magnetic wire manufacturing, commercial concrete, equipment installation and department store sales, said a press release issued by ICCI here.

The delegation exchanged views with the

business community to explore areas of mutual collaboration and business partnerships.

Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) briefed the Chinese delegation about the potential areas of joint ventures and investment in various sectors of Pakistan's economy.

He said that CPEC has started a new era of

development and long-term business partnerships between Pakistan and China. He said that Pakistan was establishing many special economic zones under CPEC and it was a good opportunity for Chinese companies to transfer technology to Pakistan and set up joint ventures in areas of interest. He said that ICCI is working on a new industrial estate in the region.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting on the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund, at Finance Division.



MULTAN: Female customers selecting and purchasing old clothes displayed by the roadside vendor to attract the customers.

Chairman FBR holds E-Khuli Kachehri to listen taxpayer's grievances

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad here on Friday held E-Khuli Kachehri to directly received telephone calls from taxpayers and listened to their grievances and recommendations.

He was addressing E-Khuli Kachehri held at the board's headquarter under the government vision as part of the FBR drive to facilitate taxpayers, said a news release. The occasion provides an opportunity to taxpayers to directly communicate with Chairman FBR for resolving their tax-related issues and promote culture of tax compliance in the

country. The chairman gave on-spot directions to relevant offices to resolve issues of the taxpayers at the earliest.

He also advised the taxpayers to visit their nearest Regional Tax Office and Collectorate of Customs for speedy redressal of their concerns. He appreciated the suggestions given by the taxpayers for further improving the tax-related services for better facilitation. The chairman assured that their valued input would be considered and expressed the resolve to further improve the services and mechanism of taxation to facilitate all taxpayers.

DC for sale of food items at fixed prices

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner Zaheer Anwar Jappa Friday said that food items should be sold at fixed prices and availability of food items in adequate quantity should also be ensured.

In order to maintain the balance between demand and supply, the supply chain of food items should be monitored effectively. He gave these instructions while presiding a meeting of the supply chain management committee at his office. Deputy Commissioner instructed that secretaries of market committees should take proper measures to deal with shortages in the supply of goods during the flood situation.

Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund draft law finalized

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar here on Friday chaired a meeting on the establishment of Pakistan Sovereign Wealth Fund.

The meeting deliberated upon technicalities involved, finalized the draft law and decided to send it to Ministry of Law and Justice for legal opinion and further necessary action, said a press statement issued by the finance ministry.

The establishment of the fund is authorized under the Public Finance Management

KP Govt delegation to participate investment conference in Kabul

PESHAWAR (APP): A high-level delegation consisting of the officials from various subsidiaries of the Department of Industries and Commerce is going to represent Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in a three-day investment conference in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, said a press release issued here on Friday.

The conference organized in the name of Imam Abu Hanifa is scheduled to begin from July 19, 2023. The delegation is

Rupee sheds Rs1.13 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Friday witnessed Rs 1.13 devaluation against the US Dollar in the interbank trading as it closed at Rs277.59 against the previous day's closing of Rs276.46.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of dollars in the open market stood at Rs280 and Rs283 respectively.

The price of the Euro increased by Rs3.18 to close at Rs 311.73 against the last day's closing of Rs308.55, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

PSX loses 198 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Friday, losing 198.98 points, a negative change of 0.44 percent, closing at 45,067.98 points against 45,266.96 points the previous trading day.

A total of 267,514,280 shares were traded during the day as compared to 489,176,319 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 6.783 billion against Rs 14.543 billion on the last trading day.

Mian Zahid says: IMF loan sigh of relief for public, businessmen

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that the approval of the loan by the IMF and the issuance of the first tranche of 1.2 billion dollars has proved a sigh of relief for the public and businessmen.

In a statement issued here on Friday, he said that

the decision of the lender will ease the ongoing uncertainty and stop hoarding of dollars which will stabilize the economy, increase the value of the rupee and improve the confidence of investors.

Mian Zahid Hussain said that the hike in prices of petroleum products, electricity and gas as a result of the IMF agreement will increase the cost of doing business, but it is better than bankruptcy, therefore we support it.

Thar farmers educated on biosaline agriculture

KARACHI (APP): A training workshop to educate Thar farmers about biosaline agriculture was organized at the Excellence Centre of Mining, Sindh Engro Coal Mining Company (SECMC) here on Friday.

The workshop titled "Improving Salinity Tolerance of Conventional and Non-conventional Crops Under Extreme Environmental Conditions" was arranged by the Institute of Sustainable Halophyte Utilization of the University of Karachi in collaboration with Pakistan Science Foundation. The General Manager of Thar Foundation Farhan Ansari delivered a welcoming speech, said a

statement issued here. Farhan Ansari commended KU Professor Dr Bilquees Gul for her work on the biosaline agriculture project with SECMC. Earlier, Professor Dr Gul informed the participants that the objective of this biosaline agriculture training workshop was to empower local farmers with knowledge and skills to help them thrive in the challenging Thar environment.

"By adopting biosaline agriculture, farmers can not only enhance their crop yields but also mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change and water scarcity on their livelihoods."

No country can progress without empowering the women: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: A delegation of women led by President Muslim League (N) Lahore, Women's Wing, Sadia Taimur, including former members of the Assembly Samira Komal and Syeda Sambal called on Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today.

Speaking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that no country can progress without empowering the women. He said that Muslim League (N) had taken many initiatives including all women universities, and Women on Wheels to empower women in its previous tenures. He said that the

government made strenuous efforts and steered the country out of the economic crisis. Governor Punjab said that politics is the name of public service, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, the government is taking many steps for the welfare of the people and providing them with basic facilities.

Governor Punjab further said that the supreme leader of PML (N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is respected all over the world as a statesman and he is using his persona for the welfare of his country and nation.

The Governor of Punjab said that martyrs who sacrifice their lives for



LAHORE: A delegation of women led by President Muslim League (N) Lahore, Women's Wing, Sadia Taimur in a group photo with Governor Punjab Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore.

CM visits Bibi Pakdaman shrine to review work of expansion

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Bibi Pakdaman shrine to review progress on the ongoing renovation and expansion project. Secretary Communication & Works gave a briefing on the renovation work. The chief minister urged acceleration on the work and set a deadline of five days to finish the expansion project. He emphasised the need to complete renovation of shrine's premises as soon as possible. The primary goal was to have renovation and expansion project completed before the first of Muharram, he added.



LAHORE: Former MPA, Khawaja Salman Rafique calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

SMIU to mark "139th Foundation Day Week" in September

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): Sindh Madressatul University (SMIU) has decided to celebrate foundation day week in connection with the 139th foundation day of Sindh Madressatul Islam in the first week of September 2023. This decision was taken in a meeting held here on Friday at the university's conference room.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai. It was decided that during the one-week celebrations, a National Seminar on Life, Struggle and Services of Khan Bahadur Hassanally Effendi will be organised, where prominent scholars and intellectuals present

Minister listens to public issues at open court

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and In-charge Prime Minister's Public Affairs & Grievances Wing Murtaza Javed Abbasi said on Friday the incumbent government was committed to resolving public issues on priority basis as swift measures were being taken in that regard.

He was addressing a khuli kutchehry (open court) held at the Civil Secretariat here. Deputy Commissioner Rafia Haider and other officials concerned were also present.

The minister listened to people's problems and issued on-the-spot directions to address complaints promptly and submit a report within six days. A complainant, Muhammad Sultan, informed the minister about his daughter.

Four family's members killed in road accident

Independent Report
LARKANA (APP): Four members of a family including woman and new born baby were killed in a collision between motorcycle and speedy truck, on Ratodero-Larkana road, near Wassand Sakh (Distributory) on Friday.

According to police, four persons namely Muhammad Seelro (38), Muhammad Yousif Seelro (30), Mst. Manzoora Seelro (52) and a new born baby of Village Seelro of Ratodero taluka (Larkana) were riding on a motorcycle when their two wheeler collided with a speedy truck on the road.



LARKANA: People along with children enjoying bathing in the watercourse to get some relief from hot weather in Ghulam Bhutto Village.

7 dead, 1,296 injured in Punjab road accidents

Independent Report
LAHORE (APP): At least seven persons were killed and 1,296 others injured in 1,211 road traffic crashes (RTCs) in Punjab districts during the last 24 hours.

As many as 638 people with serious injuries were shifted to different hospitals, while 638 with minor injuries were treated at the incident site by the rescue medical teams.

The data analysis showed that 658 drivers,

Drizzle forecast for Karachi

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department on Friday predicted hot and humid weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

However, drizzle is forecast in Karachi and its surrounding areas during the night time.

The Minimum and maximum temperatures were recorded in Karachi 33-35 degrees Centigrade, Hyderabad 36-38 degrees Centigrade, Sukkur 40-42 degrees Centigrade, Thatta 35-37 degrees Centigrade, Mohenjodaro 41-43 degrees Centigrade.

Dadu 44-46 degrees Centigrade, Mithi 38-40 degrees Centigrade, and in Nawabshah 42-44 degrees Centigrade.

Mainly, hot and humid weather is likely to prevail in the province and drizzle in the city at night.

Nine matches decided in 4th Gatorade tourney

Independent Report
KARACHI (APP): In the fourth Gatorade Trophy 3x3 under-21 basketball tournament being held under the patronage of Commissioner Karachi Muhammad Iqbal Memon, as many as 9 matches were decided on the first day at Arambagh basketball court.

The tournament is being played on League basis, according to a communique issued here Friday.

In the first match, Arambagh Club defeated Quaid-e-Azam Rangers School Red by 9-5, in the second match, CCG defeated Quaid-e-Azam Rangers Red by 8-0, in the third match, Arambagh Club defeated CCG Club by 9-7, in the fourth match, Jump Shoot Club defeated Quaid-e-Azam Rangers School Green 5-4, in the fifth match Iqra Club Blue beat CCG Club 8-5, in the sixth match

WASA on high alert to cope with flooding: MD

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI (APP): Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) Rawalpindi was put on high alert to cope with urban flooding following rain on Friday, said Managing Director (MD), WASA.

He informed that twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad received heavy 27 mm rain, and all arrangements were finalized by the agency to deal with flash flood. He said that according to rainfall gauging stations, 6 mm rain was recorded at Saidpur Village, 27mm at PMD, 18mm at Shamsabad, 3mm at Chaklala while water level sensor data showed five feet at Kattarian and four at Gawalmandi.

International News

US takes up 'hacking' with China as issue threatens ties

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned Beijing's top diplomat of consequences over hacking after a breach blamed on China again threatened to undermine a nascent stability in ties between the two powers.

Less than a month after Blinken paid a rare visit to Beijing, he met for more than an hour and a half with Wang Yi, the Chinese Communist Party's foreign policy supremo, on the sidelines of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) talks in Jakarta.

"Director, good to see you," a smiling Blinken said in the only public com-

ments between the two sides after the longer-than-expected meeting at a hotel.

A senior US official later said that Blinken raised with Wang the breach of US government sites reported this week by Microsoft, which blamed Chinese hackers motivated by espionage.

Blinken "made clear that any action that targets US government, US companies, American citizens, is of deep concern to us and that we will take appropriate action to hold those responsible accountable," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

The official stopped

short of saying that Blinken directly accused China of involvement.

The State Department has publicly said only that it is investigating the hacking, which according to Microsoft affected approximately 25 organisations.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller called the Jakarta talks "candid and constructive" and part of efforts to "responsibly manage competition" between the world's two largest economies.

Wang is representing China at the Jakarta talks as Foreign Minister Qin Gang, who would normally



US Secretary of State Antony Blinken sits at a table with advisors across from Director of the CCP Central Foreign Affairs Office Wang Yi and his advisors.



Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi speaks during the summit on the Sudan conflict, at the Presidential Palace in Cairo, Egypt.

South Korea asks China to play 'constructive role' against North's threats

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea's Foreign Minister Park Jin on Friday called on China to play a "constructive role" in curbing North Korea's threats, after Pyongyang launched an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) this week.

The remarks were made during a meeting with Chinese top diplomat Wang Yi on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian

Aid group's rescue ship held 'indefinitely' in Italy

Monitoring Desk
MARSEILLE: Aid group SOS Mediterranean on Thursday accused Italy of hampering its work after the authorities there ordered its migrant rescue ship Ocean Viking held "for an indefinite period" in port.

Officials had cited "a very small number of technical and administrative shortcomings," said the aid group. Having the ship blocked in the port of Civitavecchia, north of Rome.

Macron awards India's visiting Modi top France honour

Monitoring Desk
PARIS: France's president on Friday awarded the country's top honour to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the start of Bastille Day celebrations where he is the featured guest. Emmanuel Macron awarded Modi the grand cross of the Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), the highest grade of France's order of merit that "salutes the role of the prime minister in the excellent relations of friendship

and confidence that unite France and India", the presidency said in a statement.

Modi said on Twitter that he had accepted the award "with great humility", hailing it as "an honour for the 1.4 billion residents of India". The honouree of Modi this year reflects deepening ties between France and India, which are marking 25 years of "strategic partnership". Modi called Macron his "friend" in a speech to Indians living in France on Thursday evening.

Egypt, Ethiopia hope to reach agreement within 4 months after long dispute over Africa's largest dam

Monitoring Desk
NAIROBI: After years of failed talks, Ethiopia and Egypt said they aim to finalise within four months an agreement on the operations of Africa's largest dam, an apparent breakthrough in a dispute that Cairo has described as an existential threat.

The joint statement on "expedited negotiations," issued by Ethiopia's government, came after Ethiopia's prime minister,

North Korea's ambassador blames US for regional tensions in a rare appearance at UN Security Council

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: North Korea's U.N. ambassador defended his country's recent long-range missile launch in a rare appearance at the U.N. Security Council on Thursday where he also accused the United States of driving the situation in northeast Asia "to the brink of nuclear war."

Kim Song told the council that Wednesday's test-flight of the developmental Hwasong-18 missile was a legitimate exercise of the North's right to self-defense. He said the United States was raising regional tensions with nuclear threats and deploying a nuclear-powered submarine to South Korea for the first time in 14 years.

Kim said the missile launch had "no negative effect on the security of a neighboring country," pointing to Japan's announcement that the ICBM — which flew at a steep angle — landed in open waters outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

South Korea's U.N. Ambassador Hwang Joon-

kook countered, asking: "How can an ICBM launch ever make neighboring countries appear safe?"

Diplomats said Kim's appearance was the first time a North Korean diplomat addressed the Security Council since 2017. Hwang said each of North Korea's repeated ballistic missile launches allow the country to advance its technology toward its goal of having an arsenal of nuclear-armed weapons. Immediately before the meeting, a statement from nine council members including the U.S. and Japan, joined by South Korea, was read to reporters condemning the launch "in the strongest possible terms" and stressing that it was the 20th ballistic missile launch this year in blatant violation of multiple Security Council resolutions banning such tests.

In Pyongyang, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, slammed the U.N. Security Council for convening a meeting to "pick a quarrel with" her country's self-defense step while ig-

PM for promoting skilled-based vocational training to improve balance of payment

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday said that the government was promoting the skilled-based vocational training to expand foreign remittances that would ultimately help improving the current account deficit of the country.

In his address after laying the foundation stone of the central campus of National University of Technology (NUTECH) here, the prime minister said the new campus would help producing thousands of skilled-based human resource every year who would play their key role in the country's development.

The prime minister, pledging to make the vocational education as the government's number one priority, said skilled human resource earn more than the raw labour, hence increasing the country's foreign remittances.

He said vocational training was key to prosperity and development in today's era as nations get prosperous only at the back of these skilled-based people.

He hoped that after completion, the campus would play key role in promoting technical and industrial education in the country.

He recalled that he for the first time in 1997, put his full force to promote vocational training in the country when there was no comprehensive institution to look after this important area of the education sector.

Similarly, he said the Punjab government led by him established Punjab Education Endowment Fund (PEEF) for which Rs 2 billion annual funding was allocated to provide scholarships to the talented and deserving students on merit base. He said this great project under Dr Amjad

Saqib brought educational revolution in the province.

Likewise, he said Danish Schools' project was also his brainchild which helped bridging the gap between rich and poor. "Until there is no discrimination of rich and poor especially in the education sector, the Quid-e-Azam's vision of educational right for all can not be fulfilled."

He said only one month had left for this government and he was still making efforts to provide maximum relief to the people.

PM Shehbaz also distributed certificates among the high achiever youth in various fields.

Minister for Education and Professional Training Rana Tanvir Hussain said that the coalition government led by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, with its untiring struggle brought the country out of crisis and set it on the right path.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif unveiling a plaque to mark the ground breaking of the main campus of National University of Technology (NUTECH).

Ahsan hopes to start ML-1 railway line project this year

BEIJING (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives, Prof. Ahsan Iqbal said that with China's support, work on the multi-billion ML-1, the main railway line project between Karachi and Peshawar, would be started as early as possible during this year.

The ML-1 project was to be done in the first phase, but somehow, it got delayed in the last four years.

"There was little follow-up from the previous government, but now, we are actively following it up," the minister said.

"We are hopeful that this project will start this year," he said in an interview with APP after a special meeting of the 12th Joint Cooperation Committee (JCC) of CPEC in Beijing.

He said, "The railway track has been badly

damaged during the floods last year. This is the main railway track line linking north and south Pakistan. We want to repair it and we want to upgrade it as early as possible. It will be a US\$10 billion project. We will do it in phases, and we hope to start this project as soon as possible during this year."

Ahsan Iqbal said, "The 150 years old railway line now requires major modernization and up-gradation. We are hoping that with China's help, we will be able to modernize this railway track from Karachi to Peshawar and it will be a very big support to our logistics."

About Karachi circular railway, he said, "It is a mass transit project for Karachi which is the biggest city in Pakistan. So, we also agreed to fast-track that project."

Ahsan Iqbal said the

JCC meeting was very historic because it marked a decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

"About 10 years ago, both China and Pakistan started a new journey of bilateral relationship through CPEC which is a pilot project of the Belt and Road Initiative."

"As a result, today, we have more than \$25 billion worth of investments in Pakistan under CPEC and the flagship project has helped Pakistan overcome its energy crisis."

Under CPEC, we installed more than 8,000 megawatts of power projects. It has helped us to construct modern highways, and motorways, which has improved connectivity in the country, linked different parts of the country, and provided efficient logistic support to the economy.



Chairman NAB Lt. Gen. @ Nsair Ahmed presenting memento to Kashif Zaman, out-going Director (Media) at NAB HQ Islamabad.

SDGs secretariat to take lead in learning from China on tackling challenges: Romina

ISLAMABAD (APP): Convener Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) National Task Force and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, Romina Khurshid Alam has said that the commitment on Sustainable Development Goals would be fulfilled at all costs and SDGs secretariat would take lead to learn from China to address multiple challenges being faced by Pakistan, especially poverty alleviation, economic development and climate change events. She was speaking at the launch of 'Understanding China Fellowship Programme' being organized under the auspices of Asian Institute of Eco-civi-

lization Research and Development (AIERD) in collaboration with Pir Mehr Ali Shah Arid Agriculture University here on Friday.

The SDG Task Force convener pledged that the government was playing its role to cement Pakistan-China ties and the current parliament was focusing on how to gear up industrial development in the country which was linked to China-Pakistan Corridor.

She said the government was taking confidence-building measures, therefore, the concept of building a China-Pakistan community of shared destiny had once again echoed on both sides of the two lands. Welcoming

the audience and the chief guest, Chairman of AIERD, Zahid Latif said that the AIERD would continue to strengthen bilateral relations between China and Pakistan by introducing academic programmes like 'Understanding China Fellowship' for the youth, especially the students of higher learning institutions.

Dr. Azam Khan, a professor, at Arid University, talked about the salient features of the programme, he said the participants of this programme would be imparted education and training on Chinese model of growth and development, and the current Chinese leadership's concept of shared democracy.

Police denounce false propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting dept

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: The Islamabad Capital Police Friday took a resolute stand against a recent propaganda campaign that had emerged across multiple media platforms. False information alleging a surge in crime within Islamabad was being spread, said a police public relations officer. The Islamabad Capital Police's intensified crackdown on land grabbers has triggered a wave of disinformation and malicious rumors, intending to tarnish the department's reputation. These baseless claims, including recent speculations about a lead-

ership change involving ICPCO Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, are part of an organized conspiracy designed to undermine the esteemed institution's integrity.

Contrary to these fabricated reports, Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the ICPCO, remains firmly committed to his position, diligently fulfilling his responsibilities to ensure the safety and security of Islamabad's residents.

The Islamabad Capital Police reiterates its unwavering dedication to upholding the rule of law, safeguarding lives and property, and fostering peace within the community.

'World Youth Skills Day' to be marked today

ISLAMABAD (APP): 'World Youth Skills Day' will be marked on July 15 (Saturday) across the globe including Pakistan.

The purpose of celebrating the day is to encourage youth to celebrate the value of acquiring skills like building, making, and creating to achieve personal success and fulfillment.

"By empowering young people, they can better advance the broader mission of the United Nations (UN) for lasting peace, sustainable development, and human rights for all," according to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

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Rana Tanveer says: 'PML-N to win election on performance basis'

ISLAMABAD (INP): "Selfless service to the public is the mission of his leadership and we will continue discharging the duty of the public service till our last breath," he added.

Replying to a question, he said that Pakistan was on the verge of bankruptcy when the Pakistan Democratic Movement (PDM) coalition government took over the country through a no-confidence move against Imran Khan.

"Coalition-led government cleaned up the mess of four years," he said.

"The confidence of investors is slowly being restored," he added.

To another query, he said, "I personally don't like the interim government set up and denied the seat adjustment agreement between any other political party yet now."

"PML-N do politics for public service and the development of the nation," he said while talking to a Private news channel.

He said, "Baseless allegations of opponents have no value before the politics of public service."

The minister said, "Those doing politics of allegations, lies, and dual standards are not the well-wishers of the country."



ISLAMABAD: Dr. Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, Chairman / Minister of State Prime Minister's Task Force and Gandhara Tourism important press conference at Sir Syed Building 19 Atta Turk Avenue, G.5.

PUC issues 'code of conduct' for peace, harmony in Muharram

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) on Friday released the 'code of conduct' aimed at promoting peace, inter-sect harmony, and tolerance throughout the country during the month of Muharram-ul-Haram.

The code was developed in consultation with religious scholars from various schools of thought and religions.

PUC Chairman and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Inter-faith Harmony and Middle East Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, and other prominent religious figures addressed a press conference here to announce the code of conduct. They expressed their commitment to fully adhere to the guidelines and cooperate with the government and law enforcement agencies at all levels.

The religious leaders emphasized the importance of respecting all holy scriptures, including the Quran, and strongly condemned any act of desecration.

They also acknowledged the success of a resolution passed in the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) regarding the burning of the Holy Quran in Sweden, expressing gratitude to China, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Turkey, Iran, and other countries for their support.

Furthermore, the religious scholars expressed appreciation for the condemnation of an Israeli delegate's speech on Pakistan's internal affairs in the UNHRC.

NA body expresses displeasure over absence of Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Special Committee on Arms Licenses met under the Chairmanship of Syed Ghulam Mustafa Shah, MNA in Parliament House, Islamabad this morning to discuss the problems faced by the citizens in obtaining the Arms Licenses.

The Special Committee expressed strong displeasure over the absence of Senior Officers of M/o Interior despite the fact clear message was sent to them to ensure their presence in the meeting. The Committee took serious notice over the lenient attitude of the Senior Officers towards affairs of the Special Committee and directed that their presence might be ensured in the next meeting to be held on Monday i.e. 17th July, 2023 failing which the Committee would initiate strict action against them under relevant rules.

The Special Committee directed that M/o Interior might expedite the process of issuance of Arms Licenses forwarded by the Parliamentarians.

Delegation of Old Ravians Association visits CPO Islamabad; meets ICCPO

Independent Report

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a delegation of the Old Ravians Association visited the Central Police Office Islamabad, where they met Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan. Afterwards, the delegation also visited safe city Islamabad, such as "Pukar"15, Crime Mapping, Brief Cam, e-Challan, Wireless Control, Traffic Control, and FM 92.4.

He said that, the safe

them with a comprehensive understanding of the various features and utilities of the Safe City Islamabad surveillance system.

The briefing included an in-depth introduction to the cutting-edge technologies employed by Safe City Islamabad, such as "Pukar"15, Crime Mapping, Brief Cam, e-Challan, Wireless Control, Traffic Control, and FM 92.4.

Following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer (ICCPO) Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the delegation was welcomed by the CPO Safe City /Traffic, who briefed



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ISSI, IFI sign 1st-ever MoU between Pak-Lebanon think tanks for mutual research

ISLAMABAD (APP): Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East & Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) and Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut on Friday signed the first-ever memorandum of understanding (MoU) between any Pakistani or Lebanese think tank to promote mutual research and activities.

Centre for Afghanistan, Middle East and Africa (CAMEA) at the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI) represented by its Director, Amina Khan and the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs (IFI) at the American University of Beirut, represented by its Country Director, Dr. Joseph Bahout, signed the MoU, a new release said.

In his remarks on the occasion, Director General ISSI Ambassador @Sohail Mahmood highlighted the strong fraternal relations between Pakistan and Lebanon and the desire on both sides to deepen bilateral relations across diverse fields.

He welcomed the signing of the MoU as part of the efforts to build academic and think-tank linkages and hoped that this institutional relationship would induce joint collaborative activities including research and dialogue for mutual benefit.

The DG ISSI added that the uncertain global environment, accentuating traditional and non-traditional security threats, and issues of common concern necessitated international cooperation and such collaborative endeavours as being initiated between ISSI and IFI.

Rana Sana takes notice of threats to Hindu minority

ISLAMABAD (Online): Interior Minister Rana Sana Ullah has taken notice of the threats to Hindu community.

Under the directives of Rana Sana Ullah interior ministry authorities have contacted Sindh government officers.

MNA Kheal Das Kohistani called on interior minister Rana Sana Ullah. He informed interior minister about the recent incidents in Sindh.

Stress was laid on further improving the measures in connection with protection of Hindu minority.

Rana Sana Ullah said protecting the rights of all minorities including Hindu minority is responsibility of government.

Rain lashes capital city; provides much needed respite to heat-stricken people

ISLAMABAD (APP): Rain of moderate to high intensity lashing different parts of the federal capital, like other cities, on Friday's evening turned the weather pleasant and provided the much needed respite to the heat-stricken people.

The rain-wind/thundershower started in the capital around 5:00 pm after the day long intense hot and humid weather and broke the intensity of hot weather conditions.

The residents of capital city especially youngsters were seen out of their houses and balconies enjoying the rainy evening.

IHC dismisses Asad Qaiser's plea for protective bail

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Friday dismissed the petition of former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser for protective bail in a case registered against him in Swabi.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri terminated the plea due to the non-pursuance by the petitioner.

Toshakhana case adjourned till July 17

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Friday adjourned hearing of the Toshakhana criminal case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief till July 17. Additional District & Sessions Judge Hamayun Dilawar Khan heard the case lodged by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). ECP's lawyer Saad Hassan pleaded that senior counsel Amjad Pervaiz could not attend the proceedings due to some engagements and prayed the court to adjourn the case till tomorrow. He said Amjad Pervaiz would give arguments regarding the addition of five more witnesses in the list on next date of hearing.

Pakistan urges boosting rescue mechanisms for distressed people at sea, citing recent boat tragedy

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Pakistan has raised at the U.N. last month's tragic sinking of an overloaded boat off the Greek coast where 700 people, including Pakistanis, were killed while calling for scaling up rescue operations to save lives.

"Mediterranean Sea crossings have become increasingly treacherous," Ambassador Aamir Khan, deputy permanent representative of Pakistan to the UN,

... told UN Security Council's 'Arria-Formula' meeting on 'Refugees and Asylum Seekers crossing borders on Land and At Sea: New Wave of Crisis' on all to ensure the safety and security of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, uphold international law including maritime law, and enforce the prompt rescue of individuals in distress at sea, regardless of their nationality or circumstances," he said.

There were news reports at the time that Greek coastguards were slow in reacting to the distress call from people aboard the sinking ship.

"One life lost is one too many," Ambassador Aamir Khan said, adding, "As civilized nations, it is our responsibility to ensure that no life is lost at anytime, anywhere and under all circumstances."

"We must undertake all efforts including by developing a transparent, safe and predictable disembarkation mechanisms for people in distress at sea, while complying with international obligations and without obstructing humanitarian efforts."

Referring to the deepening humanitarian crisis, the Pakistani envoy said that the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) provided a good framework by outlining key objectives to ease pressure on hosting countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand third-country solutions, and support safe and dignified returns.

At the same time, he said the recent GCR Indicator Report called for burden-sharing and strengthen efforts, as ten countries bear the weight of hosting over three-quarters of the world's refugees, with developing nations accommodating 80% of displaced individuals.

"This is unfair and unequal and cannot be rectified by a business-as-usual approach," Aamir Khan said.

"We will have to do more ... if we want to prevent already desperate situations from becoming catastrophic."