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

It is expected that the interim Afghan government will 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 terror-

ism 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.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori meets delegation of French NGO, Triangle Generation Humanitaire at Governor House.

French NGO to work in health, education & clean drinking water sectors

KARACHI (APP): French NGO Triangle Generation Humanitaire intends to work in the fields of education, health and clean drinking water in the province and its delegation led by Director Operation Ivan Deret met Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori in this regard.

Governor Sindh while welcoming the delegation, expressed hope that its assistance would provide improved basic amenities of life to locals in the province, said a

spokesperson of Sindh Governor on Friday.

Their plan to provide clean drinking water is specially commendable, the Governor Sindh said.

He also lauded the contribution of Triangle Generation Humanitaire in various other countries of the region.

The Director Operations of French NGO informed that Triangle Generation Humanitaire is working since last 30 years and its projects are running in 12 countries of the world.

Nasir Shah says: SPL to play key role in developing skills of young cricketers

KARACHI (APP): Provincial Minister for Local Government, Public Health Engineering and Housing Town Planning Syed Nasir Hussain Shah on Friday said that the Sindh Premier League will play a key role in developing the skills of the young cricketers of the province and providing them with opportunities to advance.

He said this while addressing the MoU signing ceremony of Sindh Premier League and Benazirabad Lalaz organized at Sindh Assembly auditorium.

Nasir Shah said that SPL has managed to attract the attention of cricket fans from all over Pakistan including Sindh even before its start.

He added that SPL will also give an opportunity to

the young cricketers from the backward and neglected areas of Sindh to showcase their talents while at the same time, the young cricketers from the rural areas of Sindh will also get opportunities to advance and they will be encouraged when they get the support and compassion of other senior players including Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq. He said cricket lovers like Gulam Hussain Shahid and Shahzad Akhtar also have support while Arif Malik also has a very important role in it.

He added that Shahid Afridi and Abdul Razzaq are requested to lead SPL. Nasir Shah said that sports facilities are being extended in all divisional headquarters and Arbab Lutufullah was doing a lot of work.



LAHORE: Federal Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah is addressing a press conference.



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

CM urges Local bodies representatives to own water, sanitation schemes, ensure proper functioning

Towns, district councils' budget increased by 50%

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah Friday interacted with the newly elected chairmen, and vice-chairmen of district councils, Town Municipal Committees, and Town Committees of four districts of Hyderabad Division and urged them to develop parks, playgrounds, water supply and sanitation schemes, and streets.

"The main issues of our towns and villages are defective or nonfunctional sewerage systems that the gutter or open drains are flowing onto the streets," he said and added that his government had constructed sewerage systems almost in all the small towns and villages but there was lack of ownership of the schemes which chairmen had to look after and own in the larger interest of

people of the areas.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Local Government Syed Nasir Shah, MPA Aijaz Shah, Dost Mohammad Jesar, Asif Shah, and others. The chief minister said that he had started meetings with the newly elected representatives of local bodies so that he could listen to them and give his guideline so that a working relationship could be developed to redress the public grievances. "Our main objective is to serve the province and make a difference," he said. Shah said that during his tenure he had developed water supply and sanitation schemes in every town and village.

"We have developed towns, and parks, constructed village-to-market roads, and the roads to connect the villages with main roads," he said and added that some of the small roads had

dilapidated due to heavy rains and floods while some of the sewerage schemes had failed to serve the purpose because of lack of ownership. The chief minister said that now local bodies elected representatives had taken over and urged them to give ownership not only to the schemes but each and every brick and equipment installed in their areas.

"These schemes are public property, and you are their custodian," he said and hoped these schemes would function properly and in the public interest.

Murad Ali Shah urged the local bodies chairmen to remove encroachment from their areas, beautify their towns, develop playgrounds, promote cultural and sports activities, and ensure each and every employee of their local body must work honestly.



KARACHI: Special Assistant to CM Qasim Naveed Qamar along with Provincial Minister for Information, Transport & Mass Transit Sharjeel Inam Memon and other addressing Media Briefing regarding the Ground Breaking Ceremony of the Dhabaji Special Economic Zone at local Hotel.

Dhabaji Special Economic Zone project to be launched today: Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh government to launch Dhabaji Special Economic Zone- a CPEC priority project aimed at attracting foreign direct investment, promotion of industrialisation and creation of employment opportunities- on Saturday, said Sindh Information Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

Addressing a press briefing along with Special Assistant to Chief Minister Sindh for Investment and Public Private Partnership projects Syed Qasim Naveed Qamar here on Friday, Sharjeel Memon said that Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and Chief Minister Sindh Syed

Murad Ali Shah will perform the groundbreaking of the project.

He said that the Dhabaji Special Economic Zone (DSEZ) is offering 10 year tax holiday to local and foreign investors intending to set up industries in the zone while they would enjoy tax exemptions on the import of plants and machinery as well.

The information minister informed that DSEZ is a priority project under the framework of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and it is being developed in Sindh province under Public Private Partnership mode through an international competitive bidding process.

Acting CS ensures job quota of persons with disabilities

KARACHI (APP): Acting Chief Secretary (CS) Sindh Baquallah Unar has said that the job quota of the persons with disabilities would be ensured.

Talking to a 25-member delegation of the Blind Association led by its President Riaz Hussain Memon and General Secretary Ikhtiar Ali Magsi, which called on him here Friday, he said that the persons with disabilities would be provided with every basic facility.

The Acting CS said that blind and other disabled persons were the responsibility of the government and the society.

He said that vehicles would be provided to the Vocational Center of blind persons in Larkana.

Earlier, the delegation discussed, the problems being faced by blind persons and the implementation of about 5 percent job quota with the Acting CS.

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.

Terminating 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.



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

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 martyrdom of the July 15, 2016, thwarted coup attempted by Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organisation (FETO) and Democracy and National Unity Day.

The speaker further stated that this day reminded us of the memorable victory of the Türkiye's democracy over the dark forces of regression and repression as it was the glorious day when the entire Türkiye nation stood like a rock side by side and showed their patriotism and courage.

They defended democracy and their popular leader President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. The cowardly attempt was made to detract from its chosen path of democracy, people's rules, and people's progress, he added.

He congratulated Dr. Mehmet Paçacı, Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye, on behalf of the entire nation on this 7th anniversary.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervaiz Ashraf witnessing Türkiye Art Exhibition displayed on the occasion of Turkish Democracy and National Unity Day.

Khurshid Shah says: When Imran Khan 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. We

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.

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 librarian'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 en-

vironment 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, ending 198.98 points, a negative change of 0.44 per cent, 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

the sake of the country are given great respect and status all over the world, adding that on May 9, the memorials of martyrs were desecrated and army installations were attacked under a plan which was unforgivable crime.

President Muslim League (N) Lahore Women's Wing Sadia Taimur said that we are grateful to Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman for honoring women office bearers of the party. She said that we believe in fighting fake news and propaganda on social media with truth and honesty. The delegation included Zahida Azhar, Kausar Chaudhry, Shahr Bano, Samra Nazir, Naubahar,



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. Mohsin Naqvi acknowledged that expansion would provide enhanced facilities for devotees, and widening the pathway would improve accessibility for visitors.

In consideration of the landowners affected by the project, the CM instructed the commissioner Lahore to ensure compensation based on the prevailing market rates. Later, talking to the media, the chief minister underscored the commitment to open the shrine to the public by the first of Muharram, highlighting efforts dedicated to renovation and expansion project.

Minister listens to public issues at open court

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 kutehry (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

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. Manzooran 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.



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

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

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

their research papers on Khan Bahadur Hassanally Effendi. The meeting also decided that during the celebrations students of SMIU would present theatre, sing national songs, recite poetry and participate in other events, the spokesman added. Different committees were formed to organise the 139th foundation day's celebrations.

Speaking in the meeting, Vice Chancellor Dr. Mujeeb Sahrai said SMIU was going to organise a mega event to mark 139th Foundation Day of SMI, which was a matchless institute of the country as it had served the nation for the last 139 years.



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

Drizzle forecast for Karachi

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

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

Trot Club beat Quaid-e-Azam School Green 7-5, in the seventh match Iqra Blues beat Quaid-e-Azam School Red 6-2, in the eighth match, Jump Shoot Club defeated Focus Trot Club by 7-3 and in the ninth match, Aram Bagh Club defeated Iqra Blue by 15-6.

In these matches, Ali Asad, Ahmed Ali, Ayan Ali, Ali Malik, Manan, Hur Muhammad, Zain Khan, Aun Zaidi, Nabil Ahmed, Daniyal Khan Marwat, Hasnain Khan, Rao Abdul and Shehryar showed excellent game, Amir Sharif, Zahid Malik and Rajkumar Lakhwani refereed while Naeem Ahmed, Zulfiqar Abbas and Usman Khan performed the duties of technical officials, KBBA President Ghulam Mohammad Khan, Mohammad Yaqub International Shariful Hasan.

WASA on high alert to cope with flooding: MD

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

attend such meetings, is ill, according to China's foreign ministry.

Blinken told Wang to convey his "best wishes" to Qin, another US official said.

Incidents have repeatedly impacted efforts to repair US-China relations, with Blinken scrapping his first planned trip to Beijing in February after Washington said it detected a Chinese espionage balloon over the US mainland.

Blinken eventually visited in mid-June, becoming the first US secretary of state in China in nearly five years, opening a flurry of diplomacy since then.



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

Nations (ASEAN) meeting in Jakarta, where Park "strongly denounced" North Korea's ICBM launch. It is a common interest of Seoul and Beijing for North Korea to stop provocations and return to dialogue, his office said. "Minister Park ... stressed that it was more important than ever for the Chinese side to play a constructive role for the peace and stability of the Korean peninsula," Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement.

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 honouring 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,

Abiy Ahmed, discussed the dam with Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi on the sidelines of a regional meeting about the conflict in neighboring Sudan.

Sudan is a third party to the talks about the \$4.6 billion Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam on Ethiopia's stretch of the Blue Nile, which is located just 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the Sudanese border.

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-

noring the U.S. push to increase the danger of a nuclear war. In a statement carried by state media, Kim Yo Jong called the council "a new Cold War mechanism totally inclined to the U.S. and the West."

She also warned that the United States would pay a price for its hostility toward the North. "I do not conceal the fact that very unlucky things will wait for the U.S.," she said without elaborating but reiterated her country's push to build up its nuclear deterrence capability. The Security Council imposed sanctions after North Korea's first nuclear test explosion in 2006 and tightened them over the years in a total of 10 resolutions seeking — so far unsuccessfully — to cut funds and curb its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. The last sanctions resolution was adopted by the council in December 2017, and China and Russia vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution in May 2022 that would have imposed new sanctions over a spate of intercontinental ballistic missile launches.

Ahsan Iqbal 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.

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. He said, "Through CPEC, we have also developed infrastructure in Gwadar."

"We have also improved the digital infrastructure with fiber optic cable that has been laid between China and Pakistan."

"With CPEC, we have also carried out a number of socio-economic projects for uplifting the social conditions of people."

"So, this is a very historic journey in which we are able to transform the nature of the relationship between two countries and make it much stronger in the economic cooperation field," the minister added.



KARACHI: People take part in the commemoration event held within the July 15 Democracy and National Unity Day to mark sixth anniversary of July 15, 2016 defeated coup orchestrated by Fethullah Terrorist Organization (FETO) at Turkish Consulate in Provincial Capital.

Commissioner Bilal Memon appeals Ulema to extend full cooperation with administration during Muharram-ul-Haram

HYDERABAD (APP): The Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon has appealed to Ulema of all sects to extend their full support and co-operation to district administrations in maintaining law and order and promoting an atmosphere of love, peace, affection and brotherhood during the month of Muharram in all districts of the division.

The Commissioner made such an appeal while presiding over a meeting here at his office on Friday which discussed and finalized the contingency plans for maintaining law and order, security arrangements and provision of facilities to the people during the month of Muharram.

Besides Deputy Inspector General of Police Hyderabad Syed Pir Muhammad Shah, the meeting was attended by the officers of law enforcement agencies, Deputy Commissioners, Senior Superintendents of Police, district heads of concerned departments of all districts of the division, HESCO management and Ulema of different sects.

While discussing law and order situation, the Commissioner directed the officers of law enforcement agencies to ensure provision of foolproof security arrangements at Imam Bargahs, places of Majalises-Aza and routes of mourning processions. Besides Police, he said that Rangers will also escort the mourning processions in order to avert any untoward incident in the division.

The DIG Hyderabad Syed Pir Muhammad Shah briefed the participants of the meeting about security plan for maintaining law and order and provision of foolproof security at the Imam Bargahs, places of Majalises-Aza and routes of mourning processions in all districts of Hyderabad division.

Aleem Adil writes letter to CM Sindh on Interim setup

KARACHI (Online): Opposition leader Sindh Aleem Adil Sheikh wrote letter to Chief Minister Sindh Murad Ali Shah on the issue of interim setup in province as government tenure will end next month. Copy of letter was also sent to Speaker Sindh Assembly.

It was stated in letter that tenure of Sindh Assembly will end on August 14, so as per constitution make consultation with opposition leader on interim government.

MQM-P to win upcoming elections with a thumping majority: Anis

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Convener of Muttahida Qaumi Movement of Pakistan (MQM-P) Anis Qaimkhani has said that candidates elected on the slot of Mayor of Karachi and Hyderabad will defeat its logical end.

Emirates Celebrates 25 Years of Uniting Peshawar with the World

Airline's silver Jubilee of transforming travel experiences, and promoting trade and cultural exchange

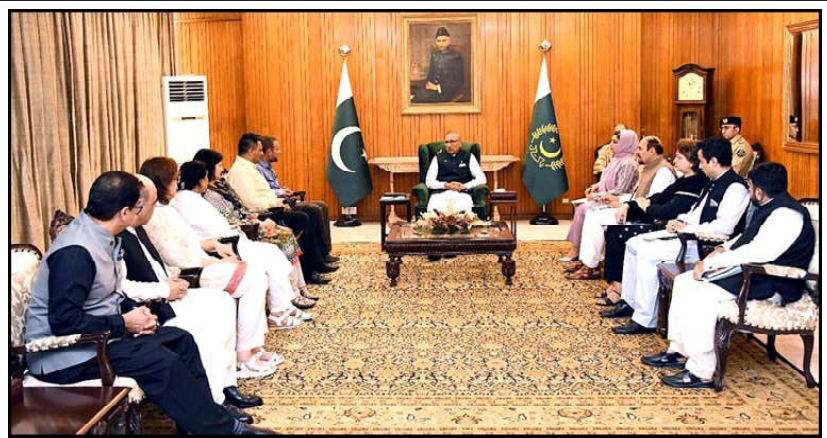
Independent Report KARACHI: Emirates today marks 25 years of successful operations in Peshawar, Pakistan's sixth largest city. Since the inaugural flight on July 14, 1998, Emirates has carried over 1.8 million passengers between Dubai and Peshawar and lifted more than 25,000 tonnes of cargo, supporting travel and trade through the export of commodities.

In 1998, the inaugural flight landed at Bacha Khan International Airport, becoming the second Pakistani city served by the airline and, since then, the airline has ensured seamless travel connectivity between Pakistan's North Western city of Peshawar and Emirates' network, including its hub city of Dubai.

Jeddah has emerged as the most popular destination for passengers traveling from and to Peshawar. Hajj and Umrah travel to Medina was also very frequent over the years while the UK (Manchester, London and Birmingham), Turkey, Germany and France were popular amongst leisure travellers and students pursuing higher education abroad. Business and corporate travellers frequented popular points in China, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.



Emirates currently offers five weekly flights to passengers from Peshawar operated with a Boeing 777-300ER wide-body aircraft, capable of carrying up to 428 passengers and 20 tonnes of cargo in the bellyhold.



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

Governor Sindh for ensuring foolproof security arrangements in Muharram-ul-Haram

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that foolproof security would be provided for gatherings and processions during Muharram-ul-Haram.

He was talking to a delegation of Jaferia Alliance led by Shabbar Raza which called on him at Governor House here Friday. Security measures for Muharram processions, close coordination with local administration, economic steps of federal government for strengthening of economy and other matters of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting.

The Governor Sindh said that all facilities would be provided to mourners throughout the province. All district administrations have been directed to coordinate with relevant persons in this regard, he added.

The Governor said that the desecration of the Holy Quran was unacceptable as this incident had hurt millions of Muslims around the world. "I have written a letter to Swedish Ambassador in Islamabad and strongly condemned the incident", he said. He said that all religious leaders had condemned this incident. This shows that all peace-loving persons are against such kind of acts, the Governor added.

He said that positive results of the economic policies of the federal government had started to emerge. "We all must contribute towards this in our own capacity, he opined.

Shabbar Raza thanked the Governor Sindh for his assurance and said that the acts of the Sindh Governor on the incident of Sweden reflected the sentiments of the entire Muslim Ummah.

Former MNA Rehman Hashmi was also present on the occasion.

Under leadership of Bilawal, upcoming era belongs to PPP: Esrani

Independent Report KARACHI: The meeting of the Non-Muslim Welfare Committee was held in the committee room of the Sindh Assembly under the chairmanship of Sindh Minister for Minority Affairs Giyan Chand Esrani, in which the final approval was given to run the Yatra bus service for the pilgrimage of Hanglaj Mata.

Committees were formed at the district level which will take care of other arrangements for the pilgrimage apart from compiling the final list of those going for the pilgrimage.

In the meeting, it was also decided that due to the majority of Hindus in Tharparkar and Umard districts, additional buses will be run from both districts on this occasion.

Provincial Minister Giyan Chand Esrani said that on the special instructions of Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, a bus service has been arranged for the pilgrimage of Hanglaj Mata, which has been well received from all over the province, while other minority Sikh and Christian communities are traveling to holy places.

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

PESHAWAR (INP): 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 communique.



KARACHI: The meeting of the Non-Muslim Welfare Committee was held in the committee room of the Sindh Assembly under the chairmanship of Sindh Minister for Minority Affairs Giyan Chand Esrani.

DC presides a meeting regarding Muharram

LARKANA (APP): A meeting was held here on Friday under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Larkana Saleemullah Odho to review the arrangements and ensure maintenance of law and order during upcoming holy month of Muharram.

The meeting was also attended by SSP Larkana, Officials of law enforcing agencies, Ulema of various schools of thought, Police officials, TMOs and officers of different departments.

The meeting reviewed arrangements to maintain law and order during the holy month to avoid any untoward incidents.

The DC directed the police officials to implement government orders and not to allow anyone to carry weapons during Muharram days.

It was stated that provocative speeches including audio and video cassettes should be not allowed.

The government has also banned entry on some speakers who deliver such speeches, it was further stated.

The DC directed the police officials to have meetings with religious leaders of various schools of thought to ensure peace and tranquility during the holy month.

He also asked the SSP Larkana to implement the contingency plan and set up control rooms to facilitate the people so that they could contact the control rooms if needed during Muharram.

He directed Municipal Commissioner LMC, Taluka Municipal Administrations (TMAs) of District Larkana to remove encroachment on the route of mourning processions to keep the cities and towns properly clean.

FIA arrests missing custom officials involved in corruption

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) arrested two missing custom officers involved in corruption and recovered looted amount from their possession.

According to details, the custom officials of Sindh including Tariq Mehmood and Yawar Abbas after being found involved in mega corruption scandal had gone missing from Karachi some one week earlier.

Both officers while traveling to Islamabad were arrested by FIA along with 5.4 million rupees cash, \$US2500 and 6100 Dirham.

FIA said that both suspects have been arrested under mega corruption scandal in customs.

Drug peddlers' gang arrested

KARACHI (INP): A six-member gang including a female drug peddler and 5 illegal Afghan immigrants were arrested by district City Police.

The accused were arrested from the limits of Kalakot and Kharadar police stations, according to a spokesman for district City Police on Friday.

Arrested were identified as Naeema, Asad Ali, Jahanzeb, Habib Jan, Imran alias Rado, Dost Muhammad alias Rado, Muhammad Dawood, Abdul Malik, Dawood Shah, Rustom and Khayal Muhammad.

They were arrested during targeted operation and patrolling/snap-checking.

About 3.45 kg hashish was recovered from the accused. Cases had been registered against the accused in the respective police stations.

1st Hinglaj Mata Yatra bus caravan to depart on July 22

KARACHI (APP): The first caravan of Hindu pilgrims will depart from their religious site of Hinglaj Mata from Karachi on July 22, 2023 as "Yatra bus service" formally gets the nod by Sindh Non-Muslim Welfare Committee, on Friday.

The Sindh Non-Muslim Welfare Committee that met here at Sindh Assembly building with Sindh Minority Affairs Minister Giyan Chand Esrani in the chair also decided to form district-level committees to finalise all arrangements including finalisation of lists of pilgrims from their concerned districts.

Hinglaj Mata also known as Hinglaj Devi, Hingula Devi and Nani Mandir, is a Hindu temple in Hinglaj, a town on the Makran coast in the Lasbela district of Balochistan, and considered one of the most revered religious sites of Hinduism in Pakistan. Hinglaj Yatra is the largest Hindu pilgrimage in Pakistan and thousands of people take part in the Hinglaj Yatra during the spring season when a festival is also organised there.

The maiden caravan of 'Hinglaj Mata Yatra Bus Service' would be consisted of seven buses, said a handout issued here. Subsequently, caravans of Hindu pilgrims would also be arranged phase-wise from Hyderabad and other districts of Sindh while additional buses would be operated for Tharparkar and Umerkot.

CJP 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 Constitution 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.

'Karachi Premier League' to promote positive image of metropolis: Governor

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori Friday said that the activities like Karachi Premier League (KPL) would promote the positive image of Karachi.



KARACHI: President Karachi Premier League Younas Khan thanking Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori for coming to the event.

He said, "It is an honour for me to become patron-in-chief of Karachi Premier League for promoting the Cricket." While addressing the KPL ceremony, he said that the city was the nursery of Cricket and a number of cricketers emerged from the city including Mohammed Brothers, Javed Miandad, Shahid Afridi, Moin Khan and Rashid Latif, who brought laurel to the country. Kamran Tessori said that it was responsibility of the government to encourage the youth towards positive activities.

Commissioner Larkana chairs a meeting of Divisional Polio Eradication Task Force

LARKANA (APP): The Commissioner Larkana Division Ghanwar Khan Leghari Friday presided over a review meeting of the Divisional Polio Eradication Task Force at his office to discuss the arrangements for the forthcoming seven days long anti-Polio Campaign. Commissioner Larkana said that polio is a crippling disease, and all arrangements should be made for its elimination campaign so that no child is deprived of polio drops during the polio campaign.

Commissioner urged the officers of the Health Department, NGOs, teachers, scouts, students and social workers to play their role in administering the anti-polio drops to the children, aged 5 years, during the forthcoming anti-polio campaign.

He directed all the Deputy Commissioners and Health Officers of the Division that all out efforts should be made for vaccination of Anti-Polio Drops to 0-5 Year children during Polio campaign in national interest. Commissioner said that special attention should be paid to the border areas of Baluchistan so that there is no risk of polio spreading from people coming from there.

He also directed the health officers to re-strengthen their strategies and to focus on routine immunization.



KARACHI: Climate march human rights commission of Pakistan Chairperson Asad Butt along with Sheema Kermani Pakistani dancer and social activist addressing Press Conference about the Climate Change at Karachi Press Club.

AKUH launches WhatsApp channel for enhancing patient services

KARACHI (INP): The Aga Khan University Hospital (AKUH) Pakistan has taken a significant step forward in patient services by officially introducing its WhatsApp channel aimed at providing easy access to a wide range of hospital services and enhance patient experience, with quick and timely response.

This initiative reflects AKUH's commitment to enhancing patient experience by leveraging technology and ensuring seamless communication between patients and the hospital, as they try to access care or care related information. This also reinforces our commitment to excellent customer service and continuous exploration to find ways to make the patient and their family's experience as seamless as possible.

The inauguration ceremony was held at the Aga Khan University Hospital Contact Centre. Dr. Farhat Abbas, the Interim CEO of AKUH Health Services in Pakistan, expressed his profound satisfaction at this initiative, highlighting its potential to revolutionize how patients connect with hospital services, and get any information they need. Dr. Abbas emphasized the significance of accessibility as one of the four fundamental principles of Aga Khan University Hospital, alongside Quality, Relevance, and Impact.