

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 212 Muharam-ul-Haram 02, 1445 AH Friday July 21, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Bilawal denies arms support to Ukraine Pakistan, Ukraine agree to expand cooperation in areas of mutual benefit

Peaceful resolution of disputes vital, Pakistan ready to play role for stability in region, says Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Ukraine on Thursday agreed to expand cooperation in all areas of mutual benefit including trade, investment, agriculture, food security, defense cooperation, cultural exchanges and people to people contacts.

"In our meeting today, we agreed on the importance of regular dialogue and engagements to further strengthen the bilateral ties. We have also agreed to hold meetings of various institutional mechanisms in due course. We will continue to build on our conversation to add more substance to our relations," Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said in a joint press conference here along with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba.

He said Pakistan also affected by this dispute and we are not providing any kind of arms to Ukraine. These kind of news are fake and misleading.

He said building bilateral trade and economic ties was a priority area for Pakistan. The Ukrainian Foreign Minister said the both sides agreed to reinvent the bilateral mechanisms as both looked forward to holding the inaugural meeting of the Ukrainian and Pakistani Commission of the economic cooperation.

Pointing to an important issue of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, Dmytro Kuleba said during the meeting he briefed the min-

ister about the Russian withdrawal from this initiative on Monday and about its consequences for global food security.

"We regret that it will be Ukraine and countries of Asia and Africa, who will suffer the most from Russia's withdrawal", he said adding that by doing so Russia significantly undermined global food security that would result in hike in global food prices.

He said Ukraine considered Pakistan a good partner and it was ready to work in all areas especially in the area of food security.

Bilawal said it was in larger interest of Pakistan as well as the developed world that this grain deal should be restored.



ISLAMABAD: Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba and his Pakistan's counterpart Bilawal Bhutto Zardari address a joint press conference, in Federal Capital.

Pakistan Navy inducts two modern naval ships in national fleet

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Navy Thursday inducted two newly constructed Type 054 A/P Frigates PNS SHAHJAHAN and TIPPU SULTAN into the national fleet. The induction ceremony of two newly constructed Type 54 A/P Frigates PNS SHAHJAHAN and TIPPU SULTAN was held here at Karachi. Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif attended the ceremony as Chief Guest who was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on arrival at PN Dockyard, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The ships are fitted with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors having capability to undertake naval operation under multi threat environment. The induction of ships in PN Fleet will significantly enhance the Combat Readiness of Pakistan Navy. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest acknowledged PN efforts in ensuring seaward defence of Pakistan and contribution towards promoting peace and stability in the region. The minister emphasised geo-strategic and geo-economic significance that necessitate a potent Naval Force to safeguard maritime frontiers of the country.



KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Education and Literacy, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Syed Sardar Ali Shah presides over the meeting held at his office in Karachi.

Taliban assure Pakistan Won't allow use of Afghan soil against anyone

Monitoring Desk ISLAMABAD: Taliban on Wednesday told Pakistan that Kabul will not allow anyone to use Afghan soil against another country. Taliban's interim Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi met Special Representative for Afghanistan Asif Durrani, who arrived in Kabul on Wednesday to discuss the latest security situation in the region.

"[Muttaqi] said that Afghans will never harm anyone; we will allow none to use our soil against another country; & our efforts will always be directed at working for regional se-

curity & stability," Abdul Qahar Balkhi, spokesman for the interim foreign ministry, said in a tweet.

Durrani visited Kabul after Islamabad urged the Taliban to take action against terrorists using Afghan soil to launch attacks in Pakistan. The US State Department also warned the Taliban against using its territory from being used as a "safe haven" for terrorist attacks. "I will say we have made very clear that we believe the Taliban has the responsibility to prevent - Afghanistan from being used as a safe haven for launching terrorist attacks."

PM calls for negotiated, diplomatic settlement of Ukraine conflict

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday highlighting the significant global impact of the Ukraine conflict hurting economies of many countries, stressed the need for a negotiated and diplomatic settlement in line with the UN Charter.

The issue was discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Shehbaz and Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba, who is on a bilateral visit to Pakistan from July 20-21.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Syrian Ambassador discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Syria to Pakistan Ramez Alraee called on Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar in Islamabad on Thursday.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and opportunities for enhancing cooperation in diverse fields including trade, commerce and people to people linkages especially facilitation of Pakistani Zaireen, visiting Syria. The two sides also exchanged views on regional peace and security.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves rise above \$14 b

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan rise to US\$ 14,065.3 million while reserves held by the central bank reached \$8,727.2 million owing to inflows from Saudi Arabia, UAE and IMF. The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP received US\$ 2.0 billion from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, US\$ 1.2 billion from International Monetary Fund and US\$ 1.0 billion from the United Arab Emirates.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addresses the National IT seminar. Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir attended the seminar as guest of honor.

Terrorists' attack at Bara foiled; two cops martyred, two attackers killed: Police

President, PM and others condemn suicide blast in Bara

PESHAWAR (APP): The police here Thursday foiled a terrorist attack in Tehsil Bara by killing two suicide bombers in the encounter while two cops were martyred and six others got injured.

The police spokesman, Muhammad Asim told APP that constables namely Tayyab and Noor Bahadar were martyred during the encounter with terrorists and six cops and two civilians received injuries.

The injured constables are Jamil, Hadi, Bakht, Nawaz, Zubair and Gul Said.

He said two civilians also sustained injuries.

Inspector General of Police, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Akhtar Hayat Gandapur told media persons that the police

fought valiantly and killed two suicide bombers in an attempt to enter the Bara Tehsil compound in district Khyber.

He said two suicide bombers tried to enter the compound through the main gate and its backside but the police personnel on duty stopped them and killed them on the spot.

Due to police firing, he said the vests of the suicide bombers exploded and caused huge explosion.

He said that blood and body organs of the attackers were obtained and sent for DNA testing.

The police chief appreciated the timely response of the police officials, adding such cowardly act of terrorism could not shake resolve of the police in fight against terrorism and extremism.

PM vows to boost IT exports to \$25b; assures all-out facilitation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan was required to boost its IT exports to \$25 billion and investment to \$20 billion within a span of two to three years, as the government had already devised a mechanism to ensure one-window operations to facilitate the investors.

"This is something doable. This is difficult but not impossible. We have to achieve this target under all circumstances through your support and expertise," the prime minister said addressing an information technology (IT) seminar and launching ceremony of multiple IT-related projects.

He told the gathering of diplomats, IT experts, investors, entrepreneurs, professors and students that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) would sit with them to discuss issues and find out solutions, and move forward like a corporate culture.

He said Pakistan was rich with immense youth potential having modern skills, particularly IT, but the export figure hovering around \$2.5 billion did not justify it - owing to lack of support and archaic procedures. Citing the example of a neighbouring country that had excelled in the IT field and its exports, the prime minister said Pakistan was also positioned to claim its space.

Calling the investors his "masters", he said the government would extend all-out facilities to them through the SIFC as he himself chaired the Apex Committee meeting and Chief of the Army Staff

General Asim Munir was also playing his full role.

He said the SIFC would focus on boosting investment in agriculture, IT, mining and defence production.

"This is seriously a one-window operation with the whole of government sitting there and extending facilities to potential investors without any delay. No delay will be tolerated at any cost," he assured. The prime minister said that the Gulf states were willing to invest in Pakistan and the country would also benefit from their investment to generate revenue and enhance exports.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of the office to Captain (r) Shahid Ashraf Tarar as the Chairman of the Federal Public Service Commission during an oath-taking ceremony at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

87 Muharram processions most sensitive; Addl. IGP Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Thursday said 1049 different processions are taken out in first 10 days of Muharram-ul-Haram in megalopolis which would be given security by Karachi Police.

Out of total 1049 processions 87 have been declared most sensitive, the city police chief said while addressing a news conference at the Karachi Police Office.

He said about 1700 Majalis would be held in the megalopolis out of which 665 have been declared as most sensitive. Over 50,000 Majalis would be held in the city during the first 10 days

of Muharram-ul-Haram. Javed Alam Odho said the Muharram contingency plan had been chalked out. There were no such specific threats regarding Muharram and the contingency plan was formulated keeping general threat in view.

More than 15000 cops would perform security duties in the megalopolis during Muharram.

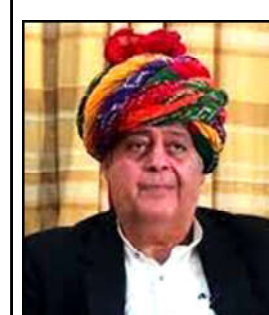
7500 in district East, 5940 in West and 2297 cops would perform security duties during Muharram-ul-Haram. 448 officers and personnel at Imam Bargahs and 2306 in Majalis would perform security duties in the District East, in district West 506 policemen at Imam Bargahs and 906 in Majalis.



KARACHI: Chief of Karachi Police Javed Alam Odho address press conference regarding security arrangements in the megalopolis in Muharram-ul-Haram.

Nawab of Junagarh passes away

Governor Kamran & CM Murad grieved over the death of Jahangir



KARACHI (Online): Nawab of Junagarh Muhammad Jahangir Khanji passed away in

Karachi, on Thursday. He was under treatment at a private hospital for the last several days.

According to media reports Nawab of Junagarh was admitted to the infirmary with complaints of having lung problems. But later he was diagnosed with cancer. Khanji is survived by a son and daughter.

The funeral prayers of Khanji would be offered at 3:30pm on Friday at the Junagadh House in Karachi.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Defence Khawaja Muhammad Asif in a group photo with Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi and ship crew during induction ceremony of two newly constructed PNS SHAHJAHAN & TIPPU SULTAN held at Karachi.

Mayor Karachi says: PPP-led govt giving permanent solution to city's long standing problems

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the government of Pakistan People's Party is giving a permanent solution to the city's long-standing problems. Korangi Causeway used to get flooded during rains, so it was decided to construct a six-lane 2.30 km long overhead bridge here at a cost of over Rs 4.5 billion, which will solve a long-standing problem in Karachi, he expressed these views on Thursday while speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the construction of the bridge on the Korangi Causeway.

The Mayor Karachi said that we thank PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari for that he encouraged us to work even in difficult situations and giving

hope to the people. The city will see a marked change within the next four years, the People's Party is doing work in every area of the city and, by ending the politics of criticism and discrimination, they are only talking about progress and development, he said.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Town Chairman of the People's Party and other leaders, Farazur Rehman, Chairman of the Korangi Association of Trade and Industry and other industrialists were also present on the occasion. The Mayor Karachi said that during the rains in the past, the Korangi causeway was not usable for several days due to which especially industrialists, workers and students had to face severe problems.



ISLAMABAD: Member of the Provincial Assembly of Sindh PPP leader Ms. Sharmila Faruqi addressing a seminar on National Dialogue on Child Trafficking & Bonded Labor.

Sherry Rehman strongly condemns Khyber Dist's Bara Bazaar blast

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change Senator Sherry Rehman on Thursday strongly condemned the blast that occurred in Bara Bazaar of Khyber district.

In a statement issued here, the federal minister expressed her solidarity with the family members of the martyred police officer in the attack.

Senator Rehman also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured in the attack.

"The country's enemy terrorists will fail every time before the ambitions of our brave security forces."

Home Ministry decides to deploy army across country in Muharram

ISLAMABAD (Online): Home Ministry has decided to deploy army across country in Muharram.

It has been said in a letter issued by Home Ministry that decision has been made to deploy army across country under article 245.

Home Minister has issued the letter to Gilgit and Azad Kashmir government including 4 provinces.



KARACHI (Online): Governor Kamran & CM Murad grieved over the death of Jahangir.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

IMF report

The IMF's staff report on its new, short-term bailout loan of \$3bn for Pakistan is a damning indictment of the Shehbaz Sharif government's economic and financial policies that deepened the trust gap between Islamabad and the lender, and pushed the country towards the precipice in the last nine months. Policy missteps and breach of the previous Extended Fund Facility programme had compelled the lender to halt the disbursement of funds, closing the door on other multilateral and bilateral financing.

The IMF document, released on Tuesday, also spells out the programme's goals, many of which, such as increased energy prices, will directly burden the people. It blames the finance ministry and State Bank for their frequent tinkering with the market-based exchange rate mechanism, leading to the growth of a large foreign exchange black market. It is also critical of the central bank for resisting a timely increase in interest rates. That is not all. The report points out that the government balked at maintaining fiscal discipline, cutting non-essential spending, broadening the tax net, controlling the drivers of the power sector's circular debt, and improving SOE governance.

In view of its experience with Pakistani authorities, the IMF has warned that continuation of the new programme will depend on the implementation of fiscal discipline, a return to a market-determined exchange rate and proper functioning of the foreign exchange market, a tight monetary policy aimed at disinflation, and progress on structural reforms, particularly with regard to the energy sector, SOEs and climate resilience.

The report also cautions against the "exceptionally high" downside risks to the Stand-by Arrangement goals emanating from a tense political environment and potential deviation from agreed policies. Such risks could undermine the programme's implementation, and jeopardise macro-financial and external stability and debt sustainability, leading Pakistan to seek foreign debt restructuring.

Additionally, it says that external financing risks remain high, and delays in disbursement of external financing from IFIs and bilateral creditors would endanger the fragile external balance given limited buffers. Spillovers from Russia's invasion of Ukraine through high food and fuel prices, and tighter global financial conditions continue to put pressure on the budget.

Highlighting Pakistan's large gross financing needs of \$28.3bn, including the \$6.4bn current account deficit, during this fiscal year, it stresses that multilateral and bilateral support will remain critical for Pakistan beyond the upcoming elections and the SBA. It is a foregone conclusion that the next government will need another, longer-term IMF programme to resolve structural challenges and meet high external debt obligations over the next few years. For that to happen, the country has to achieve the SBA goals, come what may.

Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan have signed an agreement to build a 760-kilometer-long (472-mile-long) railway track connecting the three nations. The railroad would travel from Termez, Uzbekistan to Kharlachi, Pakistan via Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2027 at a cost of \$2.8 billion. The success of the rail link will depend on a number of factors, including the political stability of the region, the availability of financing, and the continued, unconditional, and willing cooperation of the three countries. Nonetheless, the potential advantages of the rail link are substantial, and the initiative has the potential to transform the region.

The concept of a rail connection between Pakistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan dates back many years. In the 1970s, the Soviet Union proposed constructing a railroad connecting the three nations. Due to the 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, however, the project was never completed. The ratification of the agreement on July 18 in Islamabad, in the presence of "high-ranking" railway officials from the three countries, brought the age-old concept to fruition. According to plan, the rail route will traverse Termez, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan's Mazar-i-Sharif and Logar provinces, and conclude in Pakistan via the Kharlachi border crossing in the Kurram tribal district near the Afghan border.

Reportedly, the financing for this 760 km railway track has not yet been finalized, however, the World Bank, the Asian Development

Bank, and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development have all expressed interest in lending support to the project, but no formal commitments have been made. Russia has also said that it would be willing to assist in laying down the railway and supplying locomotives and rolling stock, provided the project is able to attract fundings. In the absence of any firm commitments from international financial institutions, it is possible that the signatory countries will have to fund it themselves which seems uphill task keeping in view the dilapidated financial outlook of both Pakistan and Afghanistan, but if financial arrangements are made, it would be a major boost to regional trade and economic development.

The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2027, and by 2030, trains will be able to transport up to 15 million tonnes of products annually. The line will facilitate both passenger and freight services, reduce cargo delivery periods between Uzbekistan and Pakistan by approximately five days and transport costs by at least 40 percent. With the signing of the protocol, it would begin the phases of meticulous planning, resource allocation, and project implementation, as well as a concerted, coordinated effort to establish robust regional connectivity.

The project's strength rests in its capacity to stimulate regional trade and economic growth, generate employment, and provide cost-effective industrial raw materials and utilities to enhance the competitiveness of

industrial services and agricultural outputs. The project is expensive and may be difficult to finance, is likely to encounter security challenges, particularly while passing through Afghanistan, and may require years to complete. It will create numerous opportunities, including the possibility of linking with the Gwadar port, which would provide Central Asian countries with access to a warm-water port, and extending to other nations in the region.

It may also face hazards such as political instability in one or more of the involved countries and imminent economic challenges, such as a decline in global trade and a dearth of export substitutes.

This project would provide Pakistan with an efficient and time-saving way to export its agricultural products, such as wheat, sugar, rice, maize, and vegetables and fruits such as apples, oranges, tomatoes, and potatoes, dairy products, such as milk, yogurt, and cheese, meat and poultry, such as beef, chicken, and lamb, and a variety of processed food products, including canned food, spices, frozen food, and snacks. Pakistan can export cotton, wool, and silk in the textile industry, as well as a variety of home appliances, including refrigerators, televisions, washing machines, and electronics besides sports goods and surgical instruments.

Uzbekistan is a major producer of cotton, which is used to create textiles such as clothing, home furnishings, and other products. In addition to cotton, Uzbekistan also produces grapes, melons,

and tomatoes. In addition, it is a significant producer of meat and dairy products, including beef, lamb, and milk. It grows wheat and other cereal grains. It also produces gold, silver, and copper, among other minerals. It has a developing manufacturing sector and produces a range of appliances, including refrigerators, televisions, and washing machines, as well as mobile phones, computers, and televisions, as well as a range of construction materials, including cement, steel, and lumber.

Afghanistan's mineral wealth allows it to export copper, iron, gold, and lithium for use as basic materials in the production of finished goods. In addition to being a significant producer of agricultural products such as fruits and vegetables, it can also export carpets and other similar items. Afghanistan has oil and gas reserves that could be used to produce gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel for export to Pakistan and Uzbekistan, where they could be used to fuel automobiles, generators, and other machinery.

The rail link could also be connected to the strategically located Gwadar port in Pakistan for the benefit of the entire region and the globe by giving Central Asian countries access to a warm-water port and giving Pakistan a new route into Central Asia and beyond. Once fully operational, it would help reduce poverty by creating a significant number of employment opportunities in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the rail link, and its increased trade and transportation efficiency would make it more attractive to investors.

The signing of the contract occurs at an important time. The somewhat shaky peace in Afghanistan may have been a major factor in the other two countries' decision to move forward with the project, despite the fact that other nations view it with skepticism due to the unrecognized status of the interim Afghan government and its deliberate refusal to adhere to the Doha Agreement. Nonetheless, the region is presently experiencing a period of relative peace and stability, which has made the signing of this and other high-value projects such as CASA 1000 and TAPI gas pipeline possible.

The success of these essential initiatives will establish a regional ecosystem to promote economic industrial, trade and investments.

The success of the project will also depend on the strong political will of the states and should not be affected by the change of governments in the respective countries, the allocation of sufficient and timely resources to it, and the hiring of credible, experienced, and resourceful contractors who have the ability, expertise, and resources to adhere to the project's timelines in letter and spirit.

Importantly, the success of the project would largely depend on the security and safety of the entire region, the eradication of terrorism from all countries, the destruction of terrorist safe havens, especially in Afghanistan, and the creation of a law and order situation that ensures the safe, secure, and effortless movement of goods along the route and to its destinations.

The security situation in Afghanistan will be the most difficult barrier for this project. Contrary to the Doha Agreement, Afghanistan is providing safe havens to over 6000 fully armed and trained Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) terrorists who are carrying out terrorist attacks all along the border, putting the lives and properties of people living in border areas in great danger and in constant state of fear.

They have also martyred scores of civilians and security personnel in recent days, prompting the Army Chief to warn Afghanistan to eliminate these terrorist groups which have ransomed the security and stability of the entire region.

These terrorist groups pose a significant risk to all such projects traveling through Afghanistan, necessitating the Afghan government's efforts to rid the country of the dangers of terrorism and extremism.

The donor agencies' commitment of huge funds will also be contingent on the security and safety and establishment of law and order in Afghanistan, in the absence of which the donor agencies will naturally shy away from making any commitment for provision of funds, and one does not need rocket science to understand that cash starved Afghanistan and Pakistan are unable to fund this initiative with their own funds. With Afghanistan's security issues resolved, the project makes a lot of economic sense. ---
The writer is Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

A rail link to reshape the region

By Qamar Bashir

Commerce News

Speakers at Houston conference call for boosting US-Pakistan economic ties

WASHINGTON (APP): Speakers at a "Conference on Diplomacy for Development", held in Houston, Texas, called for deepening the economic relationship between Pakistan and the United States in order to bring the two countries even closer together.

The Conference was organized by the International Academy of Letters USA, the Rupani Foundation, and the Ismaili Council for the South Western USA.

Pakistan's Ambassador to the US, Masood Khan, and the US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of South and

Central Asian Affairs, Elizabeth Horst, jointly chaired a session on the "Role of Trade Diplomacy in Pakistan-US relations".

The session was attended by thirty-five prominent Pak-American businessmen, entrepreneurs, professionals and area experts having successful business ventures and who are also investing in different projects in Pakistan, according to a press release of the Pakistan embassy.

Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, a businessman, underscored the importance of investment in education and health sector which he said was critical in

enhancing productivity of the young population.

Dr. Azeem-ud-Din, a pediatric hematologist-oncologist in Houston, highlighted his efforts in promoting and projecting Islamic art. He emphasized the need for greater efforts to introduce Pakistan, its culture and its products to the US audience.

Muhammad Saeed Sheikh, President, Houston Karachi Sister City Association, underscored the need for greater exchanges, especially trade delegations between Pakistan and the US for building strong linkages between the business communities of the two countries.

PSX gains 303.20 points
ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Thursday gained 303.20 points, a positive change of 0.67 percent, closing at 45,398.31 points against 45,095.11 points the previous trading day.

A total of 464,226,100 shares were traded during the day as compared to 245,453,654 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 10.104 billion against Rs 9.402 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 344 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 227 of them recorded gains and 90 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 27 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were WorldCall Telecom with 185,190,828 shares at Rs 1.43 per share; Bank of Punjab with 19,500,000 shares at Rs.4.20 per share and K-Electric with 15,889,256 shares at Rs.2.01 per share. Sapphire Fiber witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 61.00 per share price, closing at Rs 1295.00.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet.

Word Bank, FBR reviews progress on PRR Project

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Country Director World Bank Najy Benhassine and the Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Asim Ahmad held a meeting on Thursday at FBR Headquarters to review the progress of the Pakistan Raises Revenue (PRR) Program during the last financial year.

The World Bank team included the Operations Manager Gailius Draugelis, the Lead Country Economist Tobias Haque, the Senior Economist Lucy Pan, the Public Sector Specialist Irum Touqeer, and the Manager Shahib Ali Mohib.

Dar reviews progress on outsourcing of airports' operations

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired a meeting of the Steering Committee to review the progress of work related to outsourcing of airports' operations, at Finance Division, today.

Federal Minister for Aviation and Railways Khawaja Saad Rafique, Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Minister for Law & Justice Azam Nazir Tarar, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, Secretary Aviation,

Member Reforms, FBR, Ardesher Tariq and members of the project team were also present in the meeting, said a press release issued here.

It was noted that during the four years of the project, significant achievements have been made for sustainable revenue mobilization, taxpayer facilitation, and reducing the cost of doing business under the PRRP.

In particular, the harmonization of Sales Tax laws and procedures among provinces and the federal government was a landmark achievement with benefits for taxpayers and all revenue authorities.

CEO Public Private Partnership Authority, DG Pakistan CAA, IFC team and other government officials attended the meeting. IFC, transaction advisor apprised the meeting of the progress on the working. The meeting unanimously decided and allowed Ministry of Aviation to proceed further for tendering of the outsourcing of the first airport i.e. Islamabad Airport in order to improve service delivery in line with the best industry practices.

Senate body on Finance meets Finance Bill 2022-23 empowers bureaucracy to formulate zero taxation regime

Senate body briefed on 55 recommendations for Financial Budget, 2023

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Senate Standing Committee on Finance met on Thursday under the Chairmanship of Senator Saleem Mandviwalla here at the Parliament House.

The committee received briefing on the inclusion of Budget recommendation of the Senate in the Budget 2023-24.

It was briefed that the Finance Division budget wing received 55

recommendations for Financial Budget 2023 from the Senate Committee, however, most of recommendations were related to Federal Board of Revenue.

The Ministry briefed that recommendations related to Privatization of loss making enterprises, increased budget allocation for health sector, funds for rehabilitation of flood victims, availability of

food items at subsidized rates, rise in TV Fee from 35 to 50 RPs and mechanism for subsidies on fertilizers, solar energy production and daily food items were fully adopted, however the Ministry partially adopted recommendations such as grant of tax holidays to export industry, laptops schemes etc, explaining that government is providing all necessary support to IT sector and export oriented industries.

Gold rates decrease Rs 5,300

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 5,300 and was sold at Rs 221,100 on Thursday against its sale at Rs 226,400 the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs 4,544 to Rs 189,558 from Rs 194,102 whereas the price of 10 grams 22 karat gold went down to Rs 173,761 from Rs 177,926, the All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported. The price of per tola silver and 10-gram silver remained unchanged to close at Rs 2900 and Rs 2485.28 respectively.

FTO launches helpline to address taxpayer grievances countrywide

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Tax Ombudsman (FTO) Dr Asif Mahmood Jah on Thursday launched a helpline to guide, facilitate and address the genuine grievances of the aggrieved taxpayers without loss of time especially the business community on top priority across the country. Addressing the orientation and awareness session of the business community Coordinator to FTO Meher Kashif Younis and Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House, said "The FTO has been endeavoring for

redressing grievances of the aggrieved tax-payers in the wake of maladministration of the tax functionaries of Federal Board of Revenue (FBR). "The helpline will fully ensure uninterrupted speedy and free-of-cost relief to the aggrieved taxpayers. In this regard, the FTO has launched a public awareness campaign to reach out the existing and prospective taxpayers for building their confidence to fulfill their national obligation by paying due taxes timely in national exchequer."



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik addressing the press conference.

Energy sector reforms need of hour: Kiyani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Energy Economy Bilal Azhar Kayani Thursday said that PML-N-led coalition government over the last year had launched several important development initiatives in diverse sectors including the energy sector for the well-being of the people and stressed comprehensive power reforms.

The government had given clear directions to all power distribution companies to ensure accurate billing and to avoid overcharging the consumers, he said while talking to a Private News channel. The

government had devised a plan and submitted recommendations for reforms in power distribution companies to control the Theft of energy, he added. "The government is focusing on bringing reforms along with deregulation of the energy sector in a bid to put the country on a sustainable path leading towards economic sovereignty," he added.

He further mentioned that during the previous PML-N government, efforts were made for the production of cheap hydel electricity, which were long-term measures to generate affordable power in the country but unfortunately,

CM visits Nullah Lai to inspect water situation

Independent Report
LAHORE: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi visited Nullah Lai at Rawalpindi to monitor water flow near Katarian Bridge and inspected surrounding localities and issued necessary directions to the administration in this regard.

Commissioner Rawalpindi Liaqat Ali Chattha briefed the CM about water situation in Nullah Lai.

Caretaker CM Mohsin Naqvi stated that more rain has been forecasted till July 23rd, adding that all concerned departments should remain alert, said a handout issued here.

He directed that dewatering pumps and heavy machinery should remain fully functional and all relevant staff should remain present on their

duties and evacuation of people should be the foremost priority in case of any untoward situation.

Commissioner Rawalpindi apprised the CM that 205 mm rainfall occurred in Rawalpindi on Wednesday however water from banks of Nullah Lai did not spill over. The maximum level of water at Katarian remained at 19 feet.

CM Mohsin Naqvi while talking to the media said that Rawalpindi administration did a commendable work despite unusual downpour, adding that he has paid a visit to encourage the administration. The city received 205 mm rainfall as funds amounting to Rs.120 million are being spent on the cleanliness of nullahs in Rawalpindi, he added.

Mohsin Naqvi said the government would

make an endeavour to launch a project so that the problem of Nullah Lai could be resolved on permanent basis. An operation against encroachments surrounding nullahs is underway, he remarked.

To a question, the caretaker CM said the Punjab government is taking measures to improve treatment facilities in the hospitals of Punjab including Rawalpindi. Funds for hospitals have been allocated whereas more funds to other hospitals would be provided within one week, he added. He outlined that all necessary resources are being assured for other projects of Rawalpindi. Provincial Minister Dr. Jamal Nasir, RPO, CPO Rawalpindi, Deputy Commissioner and officials concerned were also present.



RAWALPINDI: Commissioner Liaqat Ali Chattha briefs the caretaker CM Punjab Mohsin Naqvi during the visit of Katarian Bridge in City.

ANP expressed concern over recent wave of terrorism in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial President Aimal Wali Khan on Thursday expressed concerns over three consecutive terrorists' attacks on police and FC in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during the last three days.

In a statement issued here he said that the suicide attack on FC vehicle in Hayatabad, target killing of two police officials in Regi area of Peshawar and suicide attack on Tehsil Compound in Bara district were strongly condemnable and matter of grave concern.

He said that the terrorists were targeting police and the general public in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with full force while the business community were also receiving calls for ransom due to which the residents of the province were feeling insecure.

He said that strict action should be taken against those who were calling the terrorists fighters and brought them back under secret agreement, adding that exemplary punishment should be given to the perpetrators of the recent attacks. The ANP leader expressed grief over the losses of precious lives in the terrorist attack and sympathized with the bereaved families.



BAHAWALPUR: Floodwater forced people to travel in overloaded boats along with motorcycles in Patan Mangwani Mouza.

Amir Mir lays foundation stone of Information Complex

RAWALPINDI (APP): Provincial Minister for Information, Culture and Local Government Amir Mir said that the first phase of the Information Complex would be completed during the current financial year which would be completed at a cost of Rs 100 million.

He said that the Complex would be the first field office of the Directorate General Public Relations (DGPR) which would have its own state-of-the-art building.

He was addressing at the foundation stone laying ceremony of the Information Complex here Thursday.

Amir Mir said that modern facilities were being provided to the field offices of DGPR and it would help further strengthen the bridge between the people and the government.

Rawalpindi Directorate is functioning as a media liaison office in the federal capital, Amir Mir said.

Feroze condemns blast at Tehsil compound Bara

PESHAWAR (Online): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Caretaker Minister for Information and Auqaf, Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel has strongly condemned the explosion in Tehsil Compound Bara.

He said that no religion allows to play with the blood of innocent people. The caretaker provincial minister expressed his condolences to the family members of martyred police officer Tayyab and said that the bravery and sacrifice of Tayyab will always be remembered. He said that Khyber Pakhtunkhwa police have made immense sacrifices in establishing peace in the province.

The sacrifices of security forces will be written in golden words in history. Barrister Feroze Jamal Shah Kakakhel said that the policemen showed great bravery and stopped the attackers outside the police station and killed them. If the attackers entered the police station, there would be a huge damage. He said that the investigation of the incident and the identification of the two dead suicide attackers is in process and after getting the investigation report, strict action will be initiated against the anti-state elements and will be dealt with iron hands and in any case.



GILGIT: Massive traffic jam after land sliding near Shingus Paari at Juglot-Skardu Road (JSR).

KPCM inquires after health of injured cops of terror attacks

PESHAWAR (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan here on Thursday visited Hayatabad Medical Complex and inquired after the health of the injured police personnel of terror attacks in Peshawar and Khyber.

The chief minister strongly condemned the attack on Regi check post and Bara blast.

Azam Khan was saddened by the martyrdom of police personnel in these heartbreaking incidents. He said that the government and all institutions were taking steps to prevent such incidents.

He said that Jawans of the security forces were sacrificing their lives to protect the innocent lives and the nation was paying homage to the sacrifices of the martyrs.

Azam Khan directed to provide the best medical facilities to the injured.

Providing patients with facilities at govt hospitals top priority: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Javed Akram has said that the patients who come to the public sector hospitals for treatment are the first priority for the government.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a facilitation centre, established at Kot Khawaja Saeed Teaching Hospital (KKSJ), here on Thursday. He said that various government

hospitals were being visited on the instructions of caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi.

He said that every patient who comes to the government hospitals was like a VIP [very important person] for the hospital administration.

He said that the KKSJ would make it easier for patients to get treatment without botheration.

EIDHC project launched to provide best treatment to diabetic patients

RAWALPINDI (APP): Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare, Punjab Dr. Jamal Nasir, on Thursday launched the Expanded Integrated Diabetes-Hypertension Care (EIDHC) Project including foot care in 171 Rural Health Centers (RHCs) located in 20 districts of Punjab.

According to a handout issued here, the programme was being implemented by National Communicable Diseases Control Programme and Primary and Secondary

Healthcare Department in collaboration with Association for Social Development (ASD). Giving details of the project, the minister told that foot care and suitable footwear intrusion would help prevent foot complications to happen besides better management of any severe foot condition that happens in diabetes patients. He informed that 20 District Headquarters Hospitals would also be enabled for secondary-level diabetes foot care under this programme.

Working of Punjab Police developed on modern technology: IGP

LAHORE (APP): Inspector General of Police Punjab (IGP) Dr. Usman Anwar has said that the working of Punjab Police has been developed on modern technology through software, applications and other programs. He expressed these views while talking to the under-training officers participating in the 37th Mid-Career Management Course who came on a study visit to the Central Police Office, here on Thursday.

He said police service centers across the province have provided fast and efficient service to the citizens. The IG Punjab said that equal attention and provision of additional resources have been ensured for anti-crime operations as well as investigations.

Thousands of officers have been promoted according to the merit and seniority to raise the morale of the police force, he added. Dr. Usman Anwar further said that the health screening of the force is complete, vaccination is ongoing, bravery medals are being launched for successful completion of dangerous operations.

International News

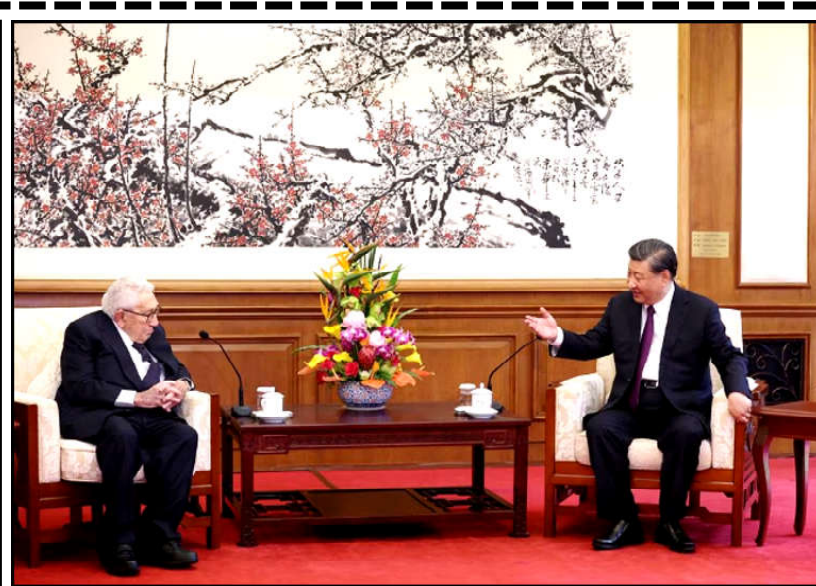
China's Xi Jinping meets with Henry Kissinger in Beijing

Monitoring Desk
HONG KONG: Chinese President Xi Jinping met with veteran U.S. diplomat Henry Kissinger in Beijing on Thursday, calling him an "old friend," Chinese state media reported.

Xi said the visit by Kissinger, who has been to China more than 100 times and recently turned 100, had special significance because of the two "hundred-dred" Kissinger, who was Richard Nixon's national security adviser, made a secret trip to China to 1971 that laid the groundwork for a historic trip by the president the following year and the formalization of relations between the United States and China in 1979.

"It not only changed the two countries, but also changed the world," Xi said, according to the state-run broadcaster CCTV. Xi said the Chinese people value their country's friendship with Kissinger and the U.S. "We will never forget our old friend and your historic contribution to promoting the development of Sino-U.S. relations and enhancing the friendship between the Chinese and American peoples," he said.

Kissinger said it was a "great honor" to visit China again, noting that his meeting with Xi at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, where many important diplomatic events are held, was the same place where he met in 1971 with Zhou Enlai, the Chinese premier at the time.



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Henry Kissinger, former U.S. secretary of state, attend a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, China.

Russia bombards Ukraine ports, threatens ships, jolting world grain markets

Monitoring Desk
MYKOLAIV: Russia jolted world grain markets with an escalation in the Black Sea, mounting a third straight night of air strikes on Ukrainian ports and issuing a threat against Ukraine-bound vessels to which Kyiv responded in kind.

At least 27 civilians were reported hurt in the air strikes on the ports, which set buildings ablaze and damaged China's consulate in Odesa.

The United States said Russia's warning to ships indicated Moscow might attack vessels at sea following Moscow's withdrawal this week from a U.N.-brokered deal to let Ukraine export grain. The signals that Russia was willing to use force to reimpose its blockade of one of the world's biggest food exporters set global prices soaring.

Moscow says it will not participate in the year-old grain deal without better terms for its own food and fertiliser sales. The United Nations says Russia's decision threatens world security for the world's poorest people. Kyiv is hoping to resume exports without Russia's participation. But no ships have sailed from its ports since Moscow pulled out of the deal on Monday.



Emergency services personnel work at the site of a building that was damaged by a Russian missile strike, amid Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

North Korea threatens nuclear retaliation over U.S. displays of military force

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea said on Thursday that the deployment of U.S. weapons like aircraft carriers, bombers, or missile submarines in South Korea could meet the conditions for its use of nuclear weapons, state media KCNA reported, citing a statement by the country's defense minister Kang Sun Nam.

The comments raise the stakes as each side steps up displays of military force in a standoff over the isolated country's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programmes.

The defense minister's statement also accused the United States and South Korea of escalating tensions in the region while criticizing the first meeting by their nuclear consultative group. "The ever-increasing visibility of the deployment of the strategic nuclear submarine and other strategic assets may fall under the conditions of the use of nuclear weapons specified in the DPRK law."

Iran warns against unloading Iranian oil from seized tanker

Monitoring Desk
DUBAI: Iran would retaliate against any oil company unloading Iranian oil from a seized tanker, the Revolutionary Guards' navy commander Alireza Tangsiri said on Thursday, according to state media. In April, the U.S. confiscated Iranian oil on a tanker at sea in a sanctions enforcement operation, according to a maritime security firm. Tangsiri added that Tehran would hold Washington responsible for allowing the unloading of the tanker's content.

Iraq expels Sweden envoy after another act of Holy Quran's desecration in Stockholm

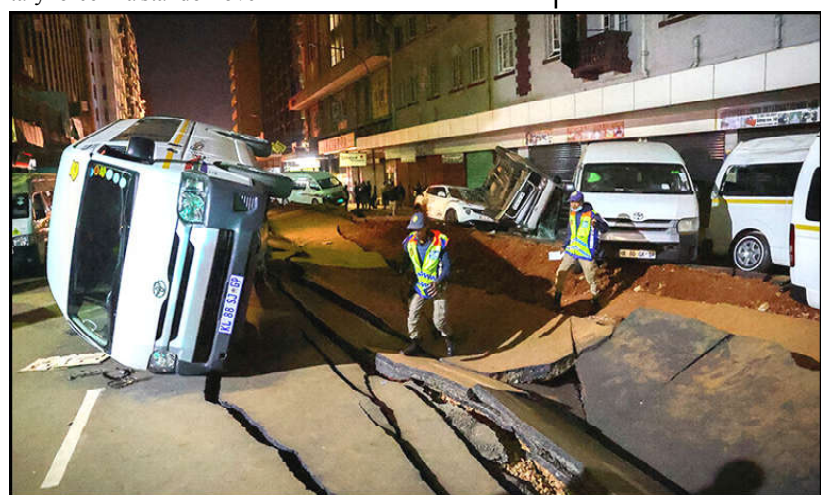
Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: Iraq on Thursday expelled Sweden's ambassador after a man stomped on a copy of the Holy Quran at a Stockholm demonstration just hours after the Swedish embassy in Baghdad was torched over the planned protest.

Sweden-based Iraqi refugee Salwan Momika, 37, stomped and kicked the Holy Quran but left the protest without burning it, just weeks after he set fire to pages of the holy book outside Stockholm's main mosque. Sweden and other European countries have previously seen protests where far-right and other activists, citing free speech protections, damage or destroy religious symbols or books, commonly sparking protests and heightening diplomatic tensions.

Around the time of Thursday's protest in Stockholm, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohamed Shia al-Sudani "instructed the Swedish ambassador in Baghdad to leave Iraqi territory," according to a statement by his office.

It said the decision was "prompted by the Swedish government's repeated permission for the burning of the [Holy] Quran, insulting Islamic sanctities and the burning of the Iraqi flag."

Overnight protesters had breached and set fires within the compound of the Swedish embassy in Baghdad and clashed with riot police, prompting an emergency meeting with the prime minister.



Police officers inspect damaged cars and the road after a suspected gas explosion injured people and caused significant damage, in the central business district of Johannesburg, South Africa.

Modi says India 'shamed' after video shows mob parading women naked

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that the country has been "shamed" by a video showing a mob parading women naked in a north-eastern state where ethnic violence has claimed at least 120 lives.

Speaking publicly about the Manipur clashes for the first time since they erupted in May, Modi said his "heart is filled with pain and anger."

"The Manipur incident is shameful for our civilised society," Modi told reporters.

"It has shamed the whole nation."

The video clip showed two women walking naked along a street and being jeered and harassed by a mob in the state, where the authorities have imposed an internet shutdown. It was reportedly filmed in early May but went viral on social media on Wednesday.

China, Russia begin joint drills in Sea of Japan, Chinese state media report

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China and Russia have begun their joint naval and air drills in the Sea of Japan, Chinese state media CCTV reported on Thursday.

The two sides will mainly focus on sea and air escorts, deterrence and repulsion, anchorage defence and other courses to carry out drills, CCTV reported.

More than 40 nations interested in joining BRICS - South Africa

Monitoring Desk
JOHANNESBURG: More than 40 countries have expressed interest in joining the BRICS group of nations, South Africa's top diplomat in charge of relations with the bloc said on Thursday.

Anil Sooklal and officials from the department of foreign affairs were addressing journalists in the main commercial city of Johannesburg, a day after South Africa confirmed Russia's Vladimir Putin would not attend the BRICS summit due to take place on Aug. 22-24.

The question of how far and fast to expand the club - centred around Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - is top of the agenda at the summit of nations seeking to offset the perceived hegemony of the U.S.-led West in global affairs. Aside from the 22 countries that had formally asked to join, Sooklal said there was "an equal number of countries that have informally expressed interest in becoming BRICS members... (including) all the major global south countries".

Enhancing education standards primary aim of EPC: Sanjrani

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani here on Thursday said that the primary aim of the Education Parliamentarians Caucus established in the Senate was to foster collaboration among provinces, federation and educational institutions to enhance education standards in the country.

Addressing a seminar on education jointly organized by the Education Parliamentarians Caucus (EPC), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS), he said, "The purpose of setting up the education caucus in the Senate is to foster dialogue and cooperation, creating a collaborative approach towards enhancing education standards in Pakistan."

The event brought together representatives and experts in the field of education.

The Chairman Senate expressed the hope that friendly countries and organizations, including Japan, would extend technical support to bolster the education sector in Pakistan.

He acknowledged the significance of learning from Japan's development experiences and encouraged sending teachers abroad for training and exposure to enrich their knowledge.

"Knowledge is the real jewel, and education goes beyond mere degrees and certificates. We must invest in skill development for our children, and identify the reasons behind our lag in the education domain," he added.

He stressed the importance of investing in teacher recruitment, training, professional development and curriculum reforms to promote digital literacy.

The Chairman also highlighted the need to explore alternative and innovative educational models to further advance the educational landscape in the country.

Sanjrani urged all participants to actively identify current challenges and obstacles facing the education system and work collaboratively to overcome them.

He expressed gratitude to all stakeholders, particularly the Education Parliamentarians Caucus, JICA, PIPS, and other contributing organizations for their efforts in organizing the seminar and promoting educational development in Pakistan.

Senator Sana Jamali, the Convener of Education in her speech expressed her immense pleasure and gratitude for the strong collaboration between EPC and JICA, emphasizing the urgent need to address the critical issue of "Empowering Pakistan's Future through Education."

She commended the Education Parliamentarians' Caucus for its dynamic role in championing the cause of education, with a strategic focus on fostering cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders involved in shaping the nation's educational landscape.

The seminar delved into the myriad challenges faced by the education sector in Pakistan, highlighting the alarming number of out-of-school children, limited access to quality education and disparities based on gender, socio-economic status and geography.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani in a group photo with the participants of the national seminar on education jointly organized by Education Parliamentarians' Caucus (EPC) Senate of Pakistan and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at Pakistan Institute for Parliamentary Services (PIPS).

Mayor inaugurates construction of Rs 4.70bn overhead Bridge over Korangi Causeway

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Barrister Murtaza Wahab formally performed the inauguration of the construction work of a dual carriage-way overhead bridge over the Korangi Causeway, here on Thursday.

Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad and other relevant officials were also present on the occasion.

Talking to the media, Barrister Murtaza Wahab said, "The construction of this overhead bridge will solve the long-standing problem of the people."

This road used to submerge with rainwater during the heavy rain in Karachi, he recalled.

The Mayor pointed out that this important road was often closed due to overflow in the Malir River, particularly during



LARKANA: Peoples Party (PPP) Political Secretary, Jameel Ahmed Soomro is distributing drinking juices among people at a Sabeel on the arrival of Holy Month of Muharram-ul-Haram, in Larkana.

STEDA decides to hire third party testing institute for Teachers' licencing test

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Teachers Training Education Development Authority (STEDA) has decided to take the test for teachers licencing through a third-party testing agency in the month of September.

This decision was taken in a STEDA meeting chaired by Provincial Education Minister Syed Sardar Ali Shah on Thursday in which Secretary School Education Ghulam Akbar Laghari, Executive Director of STEDA Syed Rasool Bakhsh Shah, Zindagi Trust's Shahzad Rai and others were present.

The meeting discussed the progress and implementation of the Teachers' Licencing Policy.

The meeting also de-

Mayor Hyderabad visits different areas of city

HYDERABAD (APP): Keeping in view the forecast about the new spell of monsoon, Mayor Hyderabad Kashif Ali Shoro on Thursday visited different areas of Hyderabad to review arrangements made for dealing with any untoward situation.

Chairman Mian Sarfraz town Bilal Mustafa, Vice Chairman Syed Fayaz Shah, newly elected representatives of the Union Committee and Municipal Commissioner Anis Dasti also accompanied him.

Election of Nawabshah Press club held

NAWABSHAH (APP): Muhammad Anwar Shaikh returned unopposed President Nawabshah Press Club during the election 2023-24, this was announced by Chairman Election Committee Zulfikar Aziz Memon and Aamir Shaikh and Nabi Bux Baloch as members of the committee.

Other office bearers who returned unopposed include Senior Vice President Muhammad Arshad Shaikh, Vice President Abdul Latif Khaskheli, General Secretary Muhammad Ismail Domki, Joint Secretary-1 Kashif Zia Qureshi and Joint Secretary-2 Fayyaz Chund Kalari.

Pillion riding banned in Karachi, other Sindh cities

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government has imposed a ban on pillion riding on 9th and 10th Muharram across the province in line with security arrangements planned for Ashura.

According to a notification issued by the provincial home department, a ban has also been placed on public display of weapons and gathering of five or more people apart from Muharram's procession.

"The ban shall not be applicable to women, children below the age of 12 years, senior citizens, journalists, personnel of law enforcement agencies and security agencies in uniform and employees of the essential services," read the statement.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif in a delegation level meeting with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba at PM Office, in Federal Capital.

MQM-P leadership demands elections on new census data, delimitations

ISLAMABAD (INP): The leadership of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan (MQM-P) has demanded to hold general elections 2023 on new census data and delimitations.

Headed by Dr. Farooq Sattar, a delegation of MQM-P on Thursday held a meeting with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) officials.

The MQM-P leaders speaking during the meeting urged ECP to organise general elections 2023 on the basis of new census data and delimitations.

The political party also expressed reservations about flaws in electoral lists and census. The MQM-P delegations also presented

ECP announces to hold next general elections on old delimitations

ISLAMABAD (NNI): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has announced to hold the next general elections on the old delimitations.

Talking to the media on Thursday, ECP Special Secretary Zafar Iqbal said that the elections would be held before October 11 if the assembly is dissolved on the completion of its tenure on August 12.

"We are fully ready for the elections. We have purchased water mark paper. We are in contact with all institutions."

Rangers conduct flag march ahead of Muharram

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh conducted a flag march in different cities of the province including Karachi ahead of Muharram-ul-Haram on Thursday.

According to a spokesman for Rangers, the para-military force had beefed up the security across the province for Muharram-ul-Haram.

The flag march was conducted in Gulshan Iqbal Town, Landhi Town, Saddar Town, Orangi Town, Baldia Town, Lyari Town, SITE Town, Gadap Town and other areas. During the flag march inspection of important Imam Bargahs and routes of the processions was also conducted.

Test of over 10,000 candidates for IT courses held

KARACHI (APP): As many as over candidates participated in the test for Information Technology (IT) courses held at the Governor's House here on Thursday.

On the instructions of Governor Sindh, effective security and traffic arrangements were made outside Governor House on the occasion.

Chairs were placed on the main lawn of the Governor's House for the test.

The candidates who are successful in the entry test will be imparted free IT education including courses on Artificial Intelligence, Web 3 and Metaverse.

The entry test paper consisted of 25 questions and the duration was forty-five minutes.

The Governor Sindh said that the test of IT courses is good news for the future of youth.



KARACHI: A large number of the candidates are busy in solving their paper during the entry test for the Free IT Course at Governor House in Provincial Capital.

Commissioner chairs meeting to review reconstruction progress of damaged houses

NAWABSHAH (APP): Commissioner SBA Muhammad Abbas Baloch chaired a meeting to overview the progress of reconstruction of houses damaged due to previous rains.

In his address, the commissioner said that the Sindh Government is providing support for the reconstruction of houses damaged due to rains in order to provide relief to affected house owners. He directed representatives of social organizations SAFCO and NSRP to expedite the verification work of house owners submitted by revenue officials of all the districts and the data shall be submitted online in order to provide support at the earliest.

Commissioner instructed all three deputy commissioners to expedite steps to be taken for the survey of damaged houses and to resolve issues of online data submission.

Briefing the Commissioner, District Manager SAFCO Abdul Samad Phulpho informed that verification of damaged houses of Shaheed Benazirabad and Naushehro Feroze district is in progress for online submission.

He said that under the scheme the owners of 2200 houses of District SBA and 3100 houses of N Feroze have been provided a support amount of Rs 75000 as first installment through their bank accounts.

District Manager NRSP Sanghar Junaid Ahmed informed that a target of 56000 damaged houses is fixed for Sanghar District out of which owners of 547 damaged houses were paid the support amount while work is in progress for payment of support amount to other affected persons.

He informed that Rs 75000 as first installment, Rs one lac as second and third installment and Rs 250000 will be paid as fourth and final installment.



KARACHI: A view of the massive traffic jam at Jahangir Road, which needs the attention of concern authority.

Quetta lawyer murder case: SC directs chairman PTI to appear in person on July 24

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has directed chairman PTI to appear in person before it on July 24 in Quetta lawyer murder case.

The court while accepting plea of Prosecutor General (PG) Balochistan seeking time for filing reply adjourned the hearing of the case till next Monday.

A 3-member bench of SC presided over by Justice Yahya Khan Afridi took up for hearing petition of chairman PTI Thursday.

During the hearing of the case, Justice Yahya Afridi inquired from Latif Khosa, counsel for chairman PTI has the petitioner to surrender before court by appearing in person for seeking relief. Ask chairman PTI to appear before the court in person.

Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi inquired can chairman PTI appear today.

Counsel Latif Khosa said he will come to SC within an hour.

Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi remarked we say to chairman PTI to come today.

Justice Yahya Afridi remarked it will be better that state counsel reply comes first in this case. Then Chairman PTI should appear. Aman Ullah Kanrains counsel for complainants told the court there is matter of appearing of chairman PTI before JIT in lawyer murder case.



KARACHI: Members of Sunni Ulema Council are holding a rally in connection of first Muharram-ul-Haram the day of Martyrdom of 2nd Muslim Caliph Hazrat Umar Farooq (R.A) passes through a road in Karachi.

KU VC, Bangladesh envoy discuss possibilities of collaboration between KU, Bangladeshi universities

KARACHI (APP): The Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh S.M. Mahbul Alam on Thursday met the Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi at the VC Secretariat on Thursday.

During the meeting, they emphasized initiating possibilities of collaboration between the KU and different universities in Bangladesh so that faculty and students of both countries could learn from each others' research activities.

On this occasion, S.M. Mahbul Alam shared that in case the students, who have graduated from the KU Bengali department, apply for jobs in the office of the Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh, they would be given preference and priority because they have good command over the Bangladeshi language.

He also invited the KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Iraqi to visit different universities in Bangladesh, which he accepted, and shared that such visits will help to learn from each other's experiences.

Mahbul Alam expressed that the University of Karachi and Bangladeshi universities can jointly work on several fields and topics.

Moen-jo-Daro express restored

HYDERABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has restored Moen-jo-Daro Express traveling from Kotri to Rohri here Thursday.

Federal Minister for Railways and Aviation Khuwaja Saad Rafique had announced plans to restore the train. Railway authorities in compliance with the directives of the Federal Minister have restored passenger train after necessary maintenance and renovation.

In this connection, a simple but impressive ceremony was held at Kotri Railway station where Divisional Superintendent



LARKANA: Security officials are patrolling in city to avoid any untoward incident as security has been tightened during first day of the Holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, in Larkana.

Monsoon starts lashing Sindh, more rains likely with isolated heavy falls

KARACHI (APP): Under the influence of the Monsoon, light to moderate rain have been reported at isolated places in Mirpurkhas and Sukkur divisions while the meteorological department predicted more rain with wind and thunderstorm at scattered places in central and southern districts of Sindh on Friday.

Meanwhile, isolated heavy falls were likely to occur in Mirpurkhas, Umerkot, Tharparkar and Sanghar districts as well.

According to the met office, light to moderate rain has been reported from isolated places in Umerkot, Sukkur, Tharparkar, Dadu, Khairpur and Larkana districts. Chhore received 36 mm rain, Sukkur 13 mm, Mithi and Dadu 7 mm each, Khairpur and Moen jo daro 3 mm each, Rohri and Larkana 2 mm each, Badin 0.4 mm, while trace was reported from Tandojam and Jacobabad.

During the next 24 hours, rain with wind and thunderstorms is likely to occur at scattered places in central and southern districts while isolated heavy falls are likely to occur at some northeast districts of Sindh, the regional meteorological centre Karachi predicted. Moderate to rather heavy falls are likely to occur in Sanghar, Ghotki, Khairpur, Umerkot, Noushehro Feroz, Mirpurkhas, Dadu, Jamsbora, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tharparkar districts, whereas, light to moderate fall is also likely to occur at isolated places in Badin, Hyderabad, Larkana, Qambar Shadadkot.