

Independent

Member APNS & CPNE

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Quetta

Ph: 2841470/2841473 REG: No. BC-116 B/ID-445 Vdt XXIV No 333, Muharramul Haram 06, 1445 AH Tuesday July 25, 2023 Pages 12, Price Rs.15

Won't rest until steering Pakistan out of current crisis: COAS Munir

Hails govt's plans for agricultural uplift; says no external force can hinder our journey towards advancement

RAWALPINDI (Agencies): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Monday inaugurated the Khanewal Model Agricultural Farm at an event seeking to bolster the agricultural sector and promote national prosperity.

The event witnessed the participation of distinguished dignitaries, local farmers, and officials from various sectors.

"Pakistan Army takes pride in serving its nation," stated the army chief, highlighting the military's dedication to the welfare of the people and the country.

"The army belonged to

the people, and the people belonged to the army," COAS said, emphasising the strong bond between the armed forces and the civilians.

COAS Munir expressed his determination to steer Pakistan out of the prevailing crises, stating, "We have decided to lead Pakistan out of the current crisis."

Addressing the nation's qualities, he praised the Pakistanis for their pride, self-respect, and competence, recognising the nation's potential to overcome challenges.

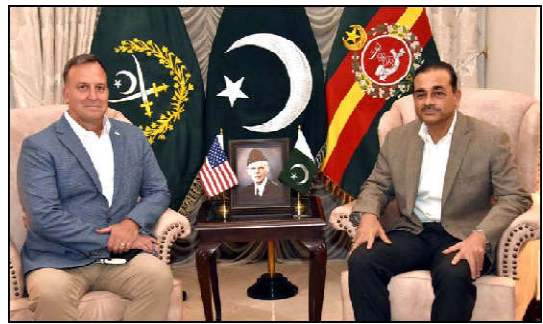
Referring to the pre-

vailing economic challenges, the army chief remarked, "All Pakistanis have collectively rejected the beggar's bowl."

Grateful for the country's blessings, COAS Munir remarked, "Allah has bestowed Pakistan with numerous gifts."

Drawing attention to Pakistan's potential for progress, the army chief asserted, "No external force can hinder our journey towards advancement." He reaffirmed his belief in the nation's capability to achieve greatness in all domains.

Continued on page 2



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with General Michael Erik Kurilla, Commander United States (US) CENTCOM during meeting held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

US CENTCOM Commander lauds Pak Army's successes in fight against terrorism

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commander United States (US) CENTCOM, General Michael Erik Kurilla called on Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir and lauded Pakistan Army's successes in the fight against terrorism.

During the meeting matters of mutual interest, regional security situation and defence cooperation

were discussed, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release received on Monday said.

Both the dignitaries reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations in all fields.

The visiting dignitary also acknowledged and appreciated Pakistan's continued efforts for bringing peace and stability to the region.

Bilawal, Josep Borrell discuss revival of Black Sea Grain Initiative

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari held a telephone conversation with European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell here on Monday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

Expressing Pakistan's concerns over the expiry of the Black Sea Grain Initiative (BSGI), the foreign minister said that the resulting food inflation and food security-related challenges would adversely impact developing countries like Pakistan which were already under economic pressure.

The foreign minister said that he had also spoken to his Ukrainian and Turkish counterparts on this subject.

He hoped that efforts aimed at reviving the initiative would come to fruition through dialogue and constructive engagement accommodating the concerns of all parties. The foreign minister requested the EU High Representative to play his role to help find a solution that would allow the renewal of BSGI and conveyed Pakistan's readiness to contribute to collective efforts in that regard.

Torrential rains kill 133, injure 215 across country

ISLAMABAD (INP): The recent torrential rains across the country have so far killed 133 besides leaving 215 injured and causing damages to houses and infrastructure.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) data stated that so far 133 deaths and 215 injuries to people have been reported, which includes 21 women and 55 children. As many as 368 houses have also been damaged as torrential rain continued to play havoc across the country, it added. Punjab has the most number of people who died where 65 people were killed in the heavy rains and 35 lost their lives in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), six were killed in Balochistan.



QUETTA: Provisional Election Commissioner Sharefullah chairs the Election Management Training Session in Provincial Capital.



LAHORE: Masood Nabi, MD Pakistan LNG Ltd and Mariam Almaszade, CEO SOCAR signing an agreement for LNG cargo on behalf of Pakistan and Azerbaijan respectively. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and other dignitaries are witnessing the ceremony.

PM Shabbaz says No increase in power tariff for consumers of 200 units per month

LAHORE (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the 63% domestic consumers using up to 200 units per month would be exempted from the recent increase in power tariff.

A partial subsidy was also being given to those consuming up to 300 units per month, who were around 31% of the total domestic consumers, he added.

"Due to the toughest conditions from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the government had to raise the electricity prices but I stressed that the burden should not be passed on to the protected segments of the society," he said after witnessing the signing of a framework agreement between the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR) Trading and the Pakistan LNG Limited

(PLL). The framework agreement was signed by PLL Managing Director Masood Nabi and Chief Executive Officer of SOCAR Trading Mariam Almaszade.

Minister of State for Petroleum Musadik Malik, Continued on page 2

PM thanks President of Azerbaijan for favorable LNG agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif Monday thanked President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev for his support in the finalization of Liquefied Natural Gas agreement on favorable terms to Pakistan.

In a tweet on a social media platform Twitter, he said, "Today marks a major development in the bilateral relations of Pakistan & Azerbaijan. Our respective ministries signed an LNG Agreement today to procure one LNG cargo per month for a period of one year. This agreement will help ease gas shortage in the country & provide relief to the people & industry."

"I am grateful to H.E President of Azerbaijan, for his support in the finalisation of this agreement on favorable terms to Pakistan. My appreciation is also due to Minister of Finance Ishaq Dar, Minister of State for Petroleum Dr Musadik Malik & their teams for the hard work. Without their commitment to public service, this agreement would not have been possible in the shortest span of time," he added.

Continued on page 2



QUETTA: A delegation led by IT Advisor to Governor Sindh Muzammil Atar meeting with Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar

No possibility of Dar's becoming caretaker PM: Kh Asif

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Defence and central leader of Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) Khawaja Muhammad Asif has ruled out the possibility of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar becoming a caretaker prime minister (PM). Talking to a private news channel on Monday, Khawaja Asif said a caretaker PM plays the role of an umpire in a caretaker set-up. He added that Ishaq Dar's name was not considered for the caretaker PM's slot on any platform.

He added that the federal government did not even give any hint at appointing Dar as the caretaker premier. "The report was actually leaked by a reputed journalist in the media." "I personally wish to see Dar as the caretaker premier. It come to my knowledge that objections are being raised for considering Dar."

Mariyum launches health insurance registration form for journalists

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb said on Monday that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif would formally launch Journalists Health Insurance Card Scheme on August 7.

She stated this after launching the registration process for Journalists Health Insurance Scheme by uploading its form on the website of the Press Information Department and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The minister said that the health insurance form was now available online for media workers and journalists and they would be able to register themselves through the online health insurance form.

Continued on page 2

The minister said that for the first time, the government had allocated Rs 1 billion for the health insurance of working journalists in the federal budget.

Mariyum Aurangzeb uploaded this online registration form along with journalists present there while Principal Information Officer Mubashar Hassan was also present on the occasion.

The minister congratulated Secretary Information and Broadcasting Sohail Ali Khan, PIO Mubashar Hassan and the entire team of the Ministry of Information for launching the scheme.

Talking to the media persons, she said that the Prime Minister had also

President condoles with Dr Tariq Fazal on death of son

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi Monday here arrived at the residence of Dr Tariq Fazal Chaudhry and condoled on the death of his young son.

The President expressed grief and sorrow over the death of his son and prayed to Allah Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.

Passerby injured in sewerage pipeline blast on Spiny road

QUETTA: A passerby was injured in a sewerage line explosion occurred on Spiny road, Quetta on Monday evening. According to the spokesman of Balochistan Police, a sewerage pipeline exploded due to accumulation of the gas on Spiny road. As a result of blast, a person who was passing through at the time sustained injuries.

However, the police along with Bomb disposal squad reached the spot and inspected the site.

The necessary evidences were also collected from the spot of gas pipeline blast, informed the spokesman of Balochistan Police. He also urged the media to get such news confirmed so that no fear and harassment is created among the general public.

Earthquake jolts Quetta, adjoining areas

QUETTA (INP): An earthquake measuring 3.0 on the Richter scale jolted Quetta and its adjoining areas Balochistan province in the wee hours of Monday.

People came out of their homes in panic and started reciting verses from the Holy Quran. No loss of life and property was reported from any part of Quetta due to earthquake.

According to National Seismic Monitoring Centre, Islamabad, the epicenter of the earthquake was located in the 25 kilometres Northwest of Quett at the depth of 15 kilometres.

ECP issues non-bailable arrest warrants for PTI chief

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) issued non-bailable arrest warrants for Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief, Ishaq Dar, PTI leader Fawad Chaudhry, and former PTI secretary general Asad Umar on Monday.

A four-member ECP bench, headed by Member Sindh Nisar Durrani heard the ECP contempt plea against PTI chief, Fawad Chaudhry and Asad Umar. However, lawyers representing them did not appear

before the ECP.

Umar's assistant lawyer requested the commission to exempt him from appearing because Umar had cases against him, adding that he had got an appointment from doctor. "Umar kept on presenting before the ECP," he added.

Member ECP ordered him to file the plea.

Chaudhry's assistant lawyer told the ECP that Chaudhry was in Lahore while his lawyer Faisal Chaudhry was in the IHC.

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi offering his condolences over the sad demise of the son of Dr. Tariq Fazal Chaudhry at his residence.

CM condemns hand grenade attack at residence of Asad Baloch, seeks report

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has also expressed satisfaction over no loss of human life in the terrorism act. It may be mentioned here that some unknown miscreants had hurled a hand grenade at the residence on Mir Asadullah Baloch in his native area, Panjur.

According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister has sought report of the incident from the police high ups.

The Chief Minister directed to ensure immediate

involved in the incident.

Mir Abdul Quddus Bizenjo has also expressed satisfaction over no loss of human life in the terrorism act. It may be mentioned here that some unknown miscreants had hurled a hand grenade at the residence on Mir Asadullah Baloch in his native area, Panjur.

However, no loss of life was reported in the incident. The area police is investigating into the matter.

CPEC from vision to reality 2-day int'l conference to mark 10-year celebrations begins

ISLAMABAD (APP): A two-day international conference, themed "Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Belt & Road Initiative (BRI): From Vision to Reality," started here on Monday to mark the 10-year celebrations of CPEC.

The Ministry of Planning, Development and

Special Initiatives has organized the conference in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Pakistan, a news release said.

The key objective of the conference is to bring together policymakers, scholars, practitioners and other stakeholders to ex-

Continued on page 2



ISLAMABAD: The two-day International conference, organized by the Ministry of Planning Development & Special Initiatives in collaboration with Embassy of the Republic of China, kicked off on Monday with the theme "Decade of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) & Belt & Road Initiative (BRI) from vision to reality to mark the 10-year celebrations of CPEC.

Water chlorination started in affected area: Gastro outbreak in Tehsil Bela; one girl child dies, 12 kids' lives saved

Independent Report
QUETTA: A girl child died while as many as 12 other children were affected due to the gastro outbreak after recent Monsoon rains in the Union Council Kuntar Sunehri of Tehsil Bela.

The reports reaching here suggested that a girl child aged one year suffering from the gastro disease lost life while 12 other children were affected due to the outbreak in the UC of Tehsil Bela.

However, all the gastro affected children were provided necessary medical

treatment and thus saved their lives after the Health department and PPHI's quick response medical teams reached the area.

The Assistant Commissioner Bela, Captain (Retd) Hamza Anjum also confirmed that the medical teams have controlled the gastro outbreak in the concerned village taking prompt action on directives of the district administration.

He informed that the teams are present in all flood and rain hit areas to tackle any emergent situation in the Bela Tehsil.

Shafique, Masood propel Pakistan after bowlers delight in 2nd Test against Sri Lanka

Sports Desk
COLOMBO: Abdullah Shafique and Shan Masood smashed half-centuries to help Pakistan take the opening day honours after they bundled out Sri Lanka for 166 in the second Test on Monday.

Pakistan, who lead the two-match series 1-0, reached 145-2 at stumps, trailing Sri Lanka by 21 runs in Colombo.

Shafique, on 74, and skipper Babar Azam, on eight, were at the crease when bad light stopped play for the day.

Shafique put on a second-wicket stand of 108 with the left-handed Masood, who made 51, to put Sri Lanka on the backfoot with their attacking play.

Bowlers set up Pakistan's dominance after leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed and fast bowler Naseem Shah shared seven wickets between them to dismiss the hosts in the second session.

"We are looking for a big lead and we want to win this game," said Pakistan's fast bowler Shah. "For me, as a fast bowler, every wicket is important."

In reply, Imamul Haq fell early for six, but Shafique and Masood hit back with a steady flow of boundaries as Pakistan went about with nearly six runs an over for a large part of their innings so far.

Shafique, who was dropped by Prabhath Jayasuriya on 42 off his own bowling, reached his fifty with a majestic six off the same bowler.

Masood raised his fifty off 44 balls, but soon departed as fast bowler Asitha Fernando got his second wicket with Kusal Mendis taking a sharp diving catch at mid-wicket.

Shafique, who survived a close lbw call on 74, stood firm and along with Azam saw the rest of the day through as they went past Sri Lanka's first-innings total.

"Dictated terms" Earlier, Pakistan wrapped up the Sri Lankan innings in 48.4 overs after the hosts elected to bat first.

"In these two Tests we have made a lot of mistakes in our batting," said Sri Lanka's assistant coach Naveed Nawaz, calling on his players to "come out of this rut and score runs".

Sri Lanka were in early trouble at 36-4 after play started 30 minutes late due to overnight and early morning rain. Dhananjaya De Silva, who made 122 and 82 in Sri Lanka's first Test loss, attempted to hit back in a quickfire knock. He shared a fifth-wicket stand of 85 runs with Dinesh Chandimal, who made 34.

Shah, who took three wickets, broke the stand after he got Chandimal caught by Haq. Abrar, who returned figures of 4-69, soon got going with two quick wickets, including De Silva's, to dent Sri Lanka's hopes of a turnaround.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Mian Atif Sharif called on President Dr. Arif Alvi at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Int'l EPI mission launches WUENIC in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): A high level international joint Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) mission Monday disseminated WHO and UNICEF Estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC) in Pakistan.

The WUENIC is a rule-based logical framework developed by WHO and UNICEF for estimating children's immunization coverage in all countries and territories across the globe.

"It is heartening indeed to welcome the high level international joint EPI mission to Pakistan," stated Iftikhar Ali Shallwani, Secretary, Ministry of National Health Services Regulations and Coordination.

The sentiments were shared by the Federal Health Secretary in response to the promising immunization data pertaining to Pakistan shared by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) estimates of National Immunization Coverage (WUENIC) during the dissemination event, organized by the Federal Directorate of Immunization (FDI).

Shallwani stated that WHO and UNICEF had made annual estimates of national infant immunization coverage for selected countries for more than two decades now enabling countries across the world into informed decision making.

Pakistan has benefited from WUENIC in a score of ways. The government of Pakistan has capitalized on these estimates to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal No. 3 of "Good Health & Well Being".

The secretary added that as per the estimates figures shared, the Expanded Programme on Immunization had committed this year to bolster collaboration and capacity among immunization professionals, researchers, health workers and journalists; to better understand and address barriers to vaccine delivery, acceptance and demand; and to introduce new vaccines to prevent future pandemics and better apply epidemiology to maximize the impact of vaccine rollout.

In a special message from Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Abdul Qadir Patel, said to the members of the high level International Joint EPI Mission "I am pleased to see the data delivers strong evidence of the resilience of the Pakistani front-line health care workers."

"WUENIC statistics depict that focused investment and systematic approach of the government, partner organizations and other stakeholders working in the Expanded Programme of Immunization have delivered tangible returns in year 2022," he added.

The minister also discussed the recent developments in the immunization programme of Pakistan starting with "Reaching the Unreached", a successful initiative carried out in July, 2021 in 69 UCs of South KP under the FDI, Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) and Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) synergy framework to ensure polio eradication from Pakistan.

accorded approval to the Azerbaijan Airline to land at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi.

"This is a big step forward to promote tourism and investment, and exchange of delegations between the two countries."

The prime minister also appreciated and thanked Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, Dr Musadik Malik, secretary petroleum, Pakistan's ambassador in Azerbaijan, SOCAR Trading CEO, and PLL MD for their efforts to conclude the framework agreement.

The ambassador of Azerbaijan in Islamabad, on the occasion, said the framework agreement would help further strengthen bilateral economic relations.

He said the cooperation between the two countries remained sustainable since the start of diplomatic ties.

He said approval of giving airspace to the Azerbaijan Airline would increase the number of visitors and business delegations between the two countries.

Lawmakers highlight urgent constituency issues in NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Lawmakers from various political parties in the National Assembly on Monday voiced pressing concerns affecting their respective constituencies.

Speaking on the floor of the House, MMAP leader Maulana Salahuddin Ayub passionately called for an end to propaganda against Madrassas, highlighting their crucial role in providing free education to the people.

He also emphasized the urgent development needed in his area, urging the government to allocate funds for regional progress.

Pakistan Muslim League Nawza Waseem Akhtar Sheikh brought attention to the aftermath of recent floods in his area, underscoring the severe damages to crops, homes, animals, and infrastructure.

He called on the NDMA and provincial government to provide essential assistance to the affected population.

BNP's Muhammad Hashim Notezai shed light on the longstanding struggles faced by the people of Balochistan and urged the prioritization of resolving their issues. He expressed appreciation for Akhtar Jan Mangal's efforts in raising Balochistan's concerns in the assembly.

Meanwhile, MQMP's Engr. Sabir Hussain Kaim Khani demanded that upcoming elections to be conducted based on the new census data, advocating for an accurate and updated representation of the population's demographics.

PM approves appointment of new ambassadors in China, Russia

ISLAMABAD (Online): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday approved the appointment of new ambassadors to China and Russia.

Khalid Hashmi, a seasoned diplomat, has been named as Pakistan's ambassador to China, while Khalid Jamali will take charge as top envoy to Russia.

A summary for the appointment of new ambassadors was sent to the premier by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after their names were approved by the Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.



A view of goods train derailed near Kalanchwala area of Bahawalpur



ISLAMABAD: Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar offering condolences to Jahangir Tarin on the demise of his brother at his residence. SAPM on Finance Tariq Bajwa and SAPM on Revenue Tariq Mehmood Pasha also accompanied the Finance Minister.

Marriyum launches health...

Continued from page 1
cated funds worth Rs 1 billion for working journalists.

She said that health insurance for working journalists and artists was the vision of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

The minister said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had launched the health card scheme in 2013 which continued in the PTI era after the change of its name.

She said that an online form of health insurance card scheme for journalists was being released.

This registration form would be available on the website of the Press Information Department, she said and added that the process of registration of journalists was being started.

The health insurance form was simple and easy to fill and all details related to health issues were available in the form, the minister said.

She said that all health facilities were being provided to journalists in the health insurance card

scheme.

"Health insurance and salaries of journalists have always been an issue in Pakistan", she remarked.

During 14 months, she added Rs 110 million had been recovered from the platform of ITNE and direct payments had been made to the employees in print media.

The minister said Minimum wage, job security of electronic media had been addressed in the amended PEMRA law, adding it was the Prime Minister's directive to ensure health insurance to journalists as soon as possible and all working journalists had been included.

This project was for the whole of Pakistan, journalists from all over the country should start registering in it, she mentioned.

"Health insurance facilities from the government are for journalists across the country, not for journalists of Islamabad only", she remarked.

She said during the ten-

ure of the present coalition government, no action had been taken against journalists having critical views about its policies and performance.

In the present government rule no journalists attacked, kidnapped, arrested or fired at as was the practice during the previous government, she added.

Taking a jibe on PTI tenure, regarding the title of media predator given to Imran Khan by Reporters Without Borders, she said the current government did not get that title, on the contrary the ranking of freedom of expression in Pakistan improved by seven ranks.

Replying to questions from media persons, she said that the health insurance scheme was not only for press club members, it was for all journalists and media workers.

"It is not mandatory for a journalist to be a member of the Press Club for health insurance registration," she said.

No increase in power tariff for...

Continued from page 1
Punjab Governor Balegh Ur Rehman, diplomats and government officials were also present on the occasion.

Under the framework agreement, the SOCAR Trading has offered supply one cargo per month of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Pakistan on flexible terms and with the credit line for 30 days after delivery of the cargo in one year contract which is extendable by another year. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said it was really a great day as "we are standing here as brothers from two brotherly countries - Pakistan and Azerbaijan". He expressed good wishes for President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev whom he met in Baku few weeks ago and thanked him for finalizing the agreement.

"We had extremely productive and very fruitful discussion over there as to how to promote economic relations between the two friendly countries," he said, adding immediately on his return to home, the Government of Pakistan

2-day int'l conference to mark...

Continued from page 1
change ideas and insights related to the economic, social, environmental and geopolitical impacts of CPEC and BRI.

Chinese Charge d' Affaires Pang Chunxue was the chief guest on the first day of the conference, which was attended among others by Secretary Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah and Chief Economist of Pakistan Dr Nadeem Javaid, who is also Project Director of CPEC.

Higher Education Commission (HEC) Chairman Dr Mukhtar Ahmed and hundreds of policymakers and experts were present on the first day of the conference.

Chief Economist Dr Nadeem Javaid, in his inaugural session, said the objective of the conference revolved around the socio-economic impact of CPEC and opportunities for industry relocation, the prospect of regional connectivity and technology transfer, enhanced cooperation for security, geopolitical implications to overcome challenges and maximizing synergies in CPEC and BRI initiatives, besides people-to-people connectivity.

While highlighting the overwhelming response for the conference, Dr Nadeem Javaid said the CPEC Secretariat received 435 extended abstracts from more than 85 national and international institutes, including universities, government departments, practitioners, think tanks and entrepreneurs.

Following a rigorous evaluation, as many as 310 abstracts were shortlisted for further scrutiny by the scientific committee, which accepted 110 abstracts for

full paper submissions, he added.

It is noted that all the accepted and presented papers will be published in the conference abstract book while selected papers will be published in the special edition of the Pakistan Development Review (PDR) Journal after blind peer review and approval of the scientist committee.

On the first day of the conference, four technical sessions were held, including the socioeconomic impacts of CPEC, prospects of regional connectivity through Gwadar port, opportunities for Industrial Relocation and export, and Green Technologies and Development.

Secretary Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah, in his address, said the conference would provide a platform to address concerns, evaluate risks and explore avenues for mitigating any adverse impacts, if any, ensuring that the benefits were equitably distributed among all stakeholders.

Highlighting the flagship project of China's visionary BRI, the secretary said CPEC had emerged as a corridor of opportunity, traversing vast terrains to connect the warm waters of the Arabian Sea with the rich landscapes of China's western regions.

"Over the past ten years, CPEC has made significant progress, with the completion of several infrastructure projects such as highways, ports, and power plants," he remarked.

"These projects have improved connectivity between Pakistan and China, reduced transportation costs, and increased the efficiency of trade," he said.



QUETTA: A view of illegal motorbike parking on Shahr-e-Iqbal creating hurdles of traffic flow.

ECP issues non-bailable...

Continued from page 1
The capital police have been directed to arrest the PTI chief and present him at 10am before the electoral watchdog. The ECP will hear the plea on Tuesday.

Lawyer murder case Earlier, a three-member bench of the Supreme Court on Monday barred the law-enforcement agencies from arresting the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief till next date of hearing on Aug 9 in lawyer Abdul Razaq Shar murder case.

The three-member bench, headed by Justice Yahya Afridi, also comprises Justice Musarrat Hilali and Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi.

The PTI chairman was also present in court at the time of hearing. Lawyer of the petitioner did not attend court. The Advocate General Balochistan sought court order for the PTI chairman to join the investigation process and report to the investigation officer.

The Supreme Court

Won't rest...

Continued from page 1
COAS Munir hailed the government's plans for an agricultural uplift, expressing his confidence in the transformation of the agricultural landscape of Pakistan, saying, "Pakistan will witness an agricultural revolution, Insha'Allah."

The Khanewal Model Agricultural Farm is designed to benefit small-scale farmers and promote sustainable practices. The army chief announced that similar modern farms would be established across Pakistan, aiming to uplift the livelihoods of farmers and contribute to the nation's economic growth.

During the ceremony, the army chief invoked the poetic wisdom of Allama Iqbal, underscoring the significance of his words in guiding the nation's trajectory. "In the hands of individuals lie the destinies of nations; every individual is a star of the nation's fate," he recited, reminding all present of their collective responsibility towards the nation's progress.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Division Dera Bugti invites Sealed tenders/Bids from the firms/contractors for the following works approved in PSDP 2022-23. Tender Fee Rs 1500/- for each work and Time limit 08 Months.

| # | NAME OF WORK | Qty | APP. COST(M) | Bid Security 2% | TSE No |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1- Construction of solar WSS Killi Sadiq Ali Lundkani in Sighari Sui PSDP No. 4974 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344463 |
| 2- Construction of solar WSS Killi Rozi Khan in Dinwani Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4975 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344443 |
| 3- Construction of solar WSS Killi Sewa Khan Mouza Maghaz in Lope PSDP No. 4976 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344433 |
| 4- Construction of solar WSS Killi NabiDad Watoo in Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4977 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344373 |
| 5- Construction of solar WSS Mouza Sialar Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4978 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344403 |
| 6- Construction of solar WSS Killi Nehallan in Pikhok Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4979 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344353 |
| 7- Construction of solar WSS Killi Mian Khan in Pingora Mouza Ramen Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4980 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344323 |
| 8- Construction of solar WSS Killi Koho Bala in Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4982 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344303 |
| 9- Construction of solar WSS Killi Sher Haji Bahoo Hamzani Goth Mouza Pusht Go Sui Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4983 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344273 |
| 10- Construction of solar WSS Killi Tariq Mandwani in sora Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4984 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344253 |
| 11- Construction of solar WSS Killi Ahmedo Mouza Donani in Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4985 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344223 |
| 12- Construction of solar KILLI M. Hussain in Marrow Mouza Guletap WSS Killi Shah Muhammad Perozani in Sangstillah Dera Bugti PSDP No. 4986 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 3.510 M | 70200/- | TSE-232407344153 |
| j. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344193 |
| 13- Construction of solar WSS Killi Tariq Baklani in Matt Sui PSDP No. 4988 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344123 |
| 14- Construction of solar WSS Killi Master Faiz in Tikka Sui PSDP No. 4989 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344093 |
| 15- Construction of solar WSS Killi Surat Khan Durvani in Biam Shahi Matt Sui PSDP No. 5500 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344073 |
| 16- Construction of solar WSS Killi Dr. Abdul Rehman in Loti Sui Dera Bugti PSDP No. 5502 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344043 |
| 17- Construction of solar WSS Killi Sanhri in Dera Bugti PSDP No. 5553 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407344013 |
| 18- Construction of solar WSS Killi Gulam Hussain in Bari Dera Bugti PSDP No. 5556 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407343973 |
| 19- Construction of solar WSS Killi Sabzi Kund in Dera Bugti PSDP No. 5558 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.425 M | 48500/- | TSE-232407343923 |
| 20- Supply & Installation of Solar System for Existing WSS Marrow Rai in Dera Bugti PSDP No. 5581 | | | | | |
| i. | Supply/ Installation of Solar System | 1-Set | 2.985 M | 59700/- | TSE-232407343903 |

The Procurement will be finalized as per B-PPRA Rules and regulations, the firm must have valid registration with Pakistan Engineering Council in relevant category and relevant discipline who have renewal for the year 2023-24 and registered with tax authorities i.e. BRA, NTN & Sales Tax Department active filers where applicable who are on AT. of FBR three-year similar experience and turnover of last two years. The tender fee must be deposited in head of account C-02721 - 02726 through Green challan in any National Bank of Pakistan. **METHOD OF PROCUREMENT:** Single Stage, One envelope procedure. **BIDDING DOCUMENTS / TENDER DOCUMENTS:** Can be downloaded from B-PPRA Website or on Production of Tender Fee and Tender documents cost Rs: 1500/- for each work. **ISSUANCE:** The tender form will be issued to bidders after publication of notice in newspapers from the presentation of requisite documents i.e tender fee (Non-refundable). Bid security / earnest money mentioned above, original valid Engineering Council Certificate in relevant / required category, registration with BRA income tax certificate (NTN) etc. **SUBMISSION:** Last date for submission of bids 08-08-2023 at 12:00 PM. **OPENING:** The sealed bids will be opened on 08-08-2023 at 01:00 PM. **Place of issuance, submission inquiries and opening will be:** ADDRESS: Office of the XEN PHE Division Dera Bugti. Telephone No. 0835 - 410533/0835 - 410433 E-Mail DB4023@bpra.gov.pk Other terms and conditions are attached with tender documents.

PRQ No.190/24-07-2023
www.dpr.gov.pk @dpr_gob dpr.gob @dpr.balochistan

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Public Health Engineering
Division Dera Bugti



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazir Tarar chaired a meeting to discuss and finalize Power Policy for Gilgit-Baltistan, in Islamabad.

Minister brushes aside hearsay on caretaker nominations of cabinet

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Senator Sherry Rehman Monday rebuked hearsay and fake information on various media outlets pertaining to nominations of caretaker setup. The minister flanked by Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) Poverty Alleviation & Social Safety Faisal Karim Kundi here at the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Secretariat clarified the media on propagated stories pertaining to the nominations of interim setup.

Senator Rehman said there were many rumours proliferating on the reputed media outlets. She clarified that the PPP had two clear views, one that there was no nomination shared with the party whereas SAPM Kundi also informed media in that regard. The minister that no nominations were decided by the PPP leadership for interim cabinet and the Party had maintained its previous and constitutional stance. "There has been news circulating that PPP had completed the caretaker. It

is visible that after the 18th Constitutional Amendment this process has been made transparent and inclusive whereas it engages all the parties including the opposition leader in the consultative process," she said. The minister said that there was no agreement on caretaker set up but rather it was a fake news. However, she said a three-member committee was constituted to hold consultations in this regard. She urged the media to avoid perpetrating fake news. Senator Rehman underlined that her party had

repeatedly demanded on time polls as it was important for the stability of the country. She also mentioned that Co-Chairman PPP, Asif Ali Zardari, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and the entire leadership had been demanding to hold the general elections as per the constitution. "We expect a level playing field for all the political parties in the upcoming elections. However, there will be surely a consensus on the nomination of interim Prime Minister but it will take time."

ED vacant post in HEC to be filled soon: Rana

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Rana Tanveer Hussain on Monday assured the National Assembly that Executive Director vacant post in the Higher Education Commission (HEC) will be filled soon.

Responding to a calling attention notice regarding the vacant ED position, the minister said that the post would be filled once the proposed amendments to the existing law, established in 2002, are approved.

"The amendments will be passed within a week, and the appointment of the Executive Director will be made subsequently," the minister reassured the assembly.

He further explained that the suggested amendments aimed to further improve the existing laws governing the commission. In the meantime, the current ED has been granted an extension until July 31, ensuring continuity in HEC's operations during the transitional phase.

He emphasized that the Higher Education Commission operates independently and autonomously, and the government has no role in the extension decision taken for the present ED.

During the session, Muhammad Jamal-ud-Din from Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam Pakistan (Fazl) highlighted issues in his area and called on the government to take notice and initiate measures for resolution.



ISLAMABAD: Youngsters are buying Shiite Muslims sacred items from stall outside G-6/2 Imam Bargah during the month of Muharram-ul-Haram in Federal Capital.

Nikah controversy case: Imran Khan, Bushra given bails

ISLAMABAD (Online): A local court on Monday approved bails of PTT's Chairman Imran Khan and Bushra Bibi in alleged illegal 'nikah' case, and sought arguments on petitions seeking their acquittal.

Civil Judge Qudratullah heard the case regarding the marriage of Imran Khan with Bushra Bibi.

The petitioner's lawyer Raja Rizwan Abbasi objected over the exemption from appearance request of Imran Khan and said that no case of the accused could be heard without his attendance.

He said that the lawyer could not be changed for the sake of one person. Imran Khan's junior

counsel said that the power of attorney for Bushra Bibi would also be submitted today.

Rizwan Abbasi opposed the request and said that it also could not be filed in absence of the accused.

Later, Imran Khan appeared before the court and request for one time exemption from appearance was filed by Bushra Bibi.

Her lawyer argued that his client had to appear in IHC and then had to join investigation in FIR registered by Kohsar Police Station.

The court instructed the accused to submit surety bonds for the bails and sought arguments in petition seeking their acquittal on July 26.



ISLAMABAD: CDA workers busy in trimming grass alongside the Islamabad Expressway.

PUC, Church of Pak leadership to hold crucial meeting on Quran burning incidents

ISLAMABAD (APP): In response to the recent incidents of burning the Holy Quran in Sweden and Denmark, the leadership of the Pakistan Ulema Council and the Church of Pakistan are set to convene a significant meeting on Tuesday.

The anticipated gathering aims to address and announce key decisions pertaining to the alarming desecration of the Holy Quran, which has sparked international outrage. Leaders from both the Muslim and Christian communities will come together to deliberate on the gravity of the situation and explore measures to foster interreligious harmony in the wake of these distressing events.

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman Hafiz

Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi will be in attendance, alongside President of the Church of Pakistan, Bishop Azad Marchal, and distinguished Ulema and Mashaykh and representatives from various faiths. Following the pivotal meeting, Ashrafi and Marchal will address a press conference alongside other religious leaders. The press conference is expected to shed light on the outcomes of the gathering and outline the proposed initiatives to address the issue at hand. The meeting stands as a testament to Pakistan's commitment to religious tolerance and unity, and it is hoped that the decisions taken will contribute to fostering greater understanding.

Senate body directs to expedite work for Sasta Bazars

ISLAMABAD (Online): A sub-committee meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Interior took place today at Parliament House, chaired by Senator Moulana Bux Chandio.

During the meeting, the Secretary Poverty Alleviation provided an update on the progress of the CDA's Sasta Bazars, which received a total of 1590 applications for Stalls. The data from these applications was shared with BISP for assessment, data revealed that 280 applicants were registered with BISP, out of which 24 were classified as very poor. Following the discussion, the Secretary Poverty Alleviation recommended the immediate issuance of allotment letters to 180 applicants.

He said that to attract investment in energy sector in order to materialize the full potential of GB resources for its people, the PPIB Act and the Power policy of 2015 would be extended to the province. The minister chaired a

Govt committed to mitigate hardships of GB's people: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar on Monday said that the government was committed to mitigate the hardships of the people of Gilgit Baltistan and extending every possible cooperation in that regard.

He said that to attract investment in energy sector in order to materialize the full potential of GB resources for its people, the PPIB Act and the Power policy of 2015 would be extended to the province. The minister chaired a

meeting to finalize power generation policy for GP. Advisor to Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Qaira, Secretary Water And Power Gilgit Baltistan, Secretary Kashmir Affairs, representatives from power division, and Secretary Law And Justice Division also attended the meeting.

The participants shared their insightful ideas for bridging the demand and supply gap that the Gilgit Baltistan region was currently experiencing.

PTI members attempt to pressurize court in Toshi Khana case: Attaullah

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister (SAPM) on Interior Attaullah Tarrar Monday said that a gang of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) members in the guise of lawyers made a failed attempt to pressurize the court for a favorable decision in the Toshi Khana case against Imran Khan.

Addressing media persons after court proceedings, he said that the rowdy behaviour PTI's members in the guise of lawyers was unprecedented and they tried to attack the court.

PTI chief Imran Khan objected the open court proceedings of Toshi Khana case however the constitution allowed every citizen to witness the court proceedings of routine trial, the SAPM added.

"We strongly condemn the rowdy behaviour of PTI's lawyer with the honorable court" he said, adding that Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) always respected the courts and judges despite the unfavorable environment and decision in Panama Case.

PML-N Leader Nawaz Sharif used to travel to Islamabad from Lahore to appear before the court in false cases against him but never tried to camouflage under the stay orders, Tarrar said.



A delegation of Pakistan Youth Parliament visiting Senate Museum at Parliament House, Islamabad.

NA body takes notice of passive attitude of Ministry

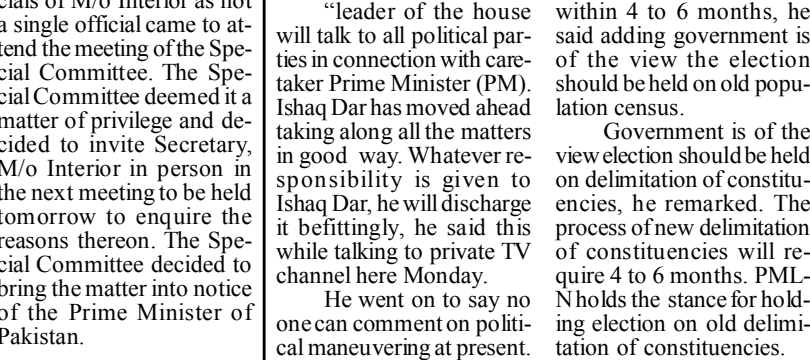
ISLAMABAD (Online): The Special Committee took serious notice of the passive and non-professional attitude of the officials of M/o Interior as not a single official came to attend the meeting of the Special Committee. The Special Committee deemed it a matter of privilege and decided to invite Secretary, M/o Interior in person in the next meeting to be held tomorrow to enquire the reasons thereon. The Special Committee decided to bring the matter into notice of the Prime Minister of Pakistan.

Dar capable for whatever responsibility is assigned to him: Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (Online): State minister for petroleum Musadik Malik has said finance minister Ishaq Dar is capable for whatever responsibility is assigned to him.

"leader of the house will talk to all political parties in connection with caretaker Prime Minister (PM). Ishaq Dar has moved ahead taking along all the matters in good way. Whatever responsibility is given to Ishaq Dar, he will discharge it fittingly, he said this while talking to private TV channel here Monday. He went on to say no one can comment on political maneuvering at present.

Objections were raised on new population census and it took several months in removing them. If new population census is notified then according to it the election should be held within 4 to 6 months, he said adding government is of the view the election should be held on old population census. Government is of the view election should be held on delimitation of constituencies, he remarked. The process of new delimitation of constituencies will require 4 to 6 months. PML-N holds the stance for holding election on old delimitation of constituencies.



ISLAMABAD: Children are playing with Zebras along the Faisal Avenue in Federal Capital.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani presiding over a Senate House business advisory committee meeting at Parliament House.

IHC grants time for recovery of Nawaz's brother

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) Monday granted the police more time for recovery of the brother of former PTT's MNA Ali Nawaz Awan and adjourned the case.

Justice Tariq Mehmood Jahangiri heard the case regarding the matter wherein Chief Commissioner ICT Noor ul Ameen Mengal, IGP Islamabad Dr. Nasir Akbar Khan and others appeared before the court.

At the outset of hearing, the ministries of interior and defence submitted their reports and stated that the missing person was not in the custody of the institutions under them.

Addressing the IGP, the court said remarked that whether there was fear of Allah or not.

Fed govt teachers demand hiring arrears

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Teachers' Associations of federal public educational institutions of Islamabad Capital Territory (ICT) Monday demanded of the government to pay the hiring arrears to teachers immediately.

Talking to APP, President Federal Government Teachers Association (FGTA) Fazal Mola said that the owners were evicting the teachers from their homes, and urged the government to pay the arrears.

He said that steps should have been taken to solve the problems of teaching and non-teaching staff of education department.

He pointed out that the payments for hiring had not been made for the past several years.

Fazal said the concerned authorities assured before the budget that the arrears would be given in terms of hiring, but no practical action was taken in that regard. He said that new hiring was not being given to teachers who adopted the sacred profession of teaching.

Senate chairman nominates panel of presiding officers for 331st session

ISLAMABAD (APP): Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani on Monday nominated a 'panel of presiding officers' for the upcoming 331st session in a significant move aimed at ensuring the smooth functioning of the upper house of parliament.

This decision came in accordance with Sub-Rule 1 of 14 of the Rule of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

The panel of presiding officers comprises three distinguished members of the Senate: Senator Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri, Rubina Khalid, and Mohsin Aziz.

Their role will be to efficiently conduct the business of the house in the absence of both the Senate chairman and deputy chairman.

In a poignant moment

MG Pakistan to introduce new variants

ISLAMABAD (APP): MG Pakistan, a prominent player in the country's automotive industry aims to introduce two new variants of its popular models, the MG HS Excite and 2.0 AWD, in a bid to further strengthen its market presence and cater to evolving consumer preferences.

As part of their expansion strategy, MG Pakistan is also turning its focus towards the sedan segment, which currently holds a substantial 45% market share said a news release.

Asif Ahmed, General Manager Marketing Division, expressed optimism about the potential of the sedan market and revealed that their first sedan offering for Pakistani consumers might be the MG GT, a 1600 CC Sedan car.

Following the remarkable success of the MG CSUVs, with over 15 thousand units sold in the last two and a half years, MG Pakistan sees great potential in the sedan category, as well as in other C and D SUVs. Key to MG Motors' vision is the localization of high-value parts to enhance competitiveness within the domestic market and explore potential export opportunities. While the company currently relies on imported parts due to its greenfield status, it aims to seek partnerships with global manufacturers to enable the local production of high-tech components, which will further contribute to the growth of Pakistan's auto industry.

Amidst the prevailing economic situation, MG Motors remains positive about Pakistan's automotive potential.

Asif Ahmed noted that Auto industry has always shown 'V' type recovery and indicated a promising and prosperous market in the near future.

MG Pakistan majority share holder Shanghai Motor International Limited (SMIL) have expressed a long-term commitment to the Pakistani market. As the fourth Knock Down (KD) plant globally, the MG plant in Pakistan represents a significant \$100 million investment, reaffirming the company's dedication to the country.

Rank Pinning ceremony of newly promoted Officials held

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, a distinguished ceremony was held at Police Lines Headquarters Islamabad to honor the promoted Sub-Inspectors, Assistant Sub-Inspectors and Head Constables who were posted at Headquarters Division.

The event was organized by the SSP Headquarters Sarfaraz Ahmed Virk in recognition of their exemplary dedication and commitment to their duties. The newly promoted officers were acknowledged and congratulated by SSP Headquarters and SP Headquarters.

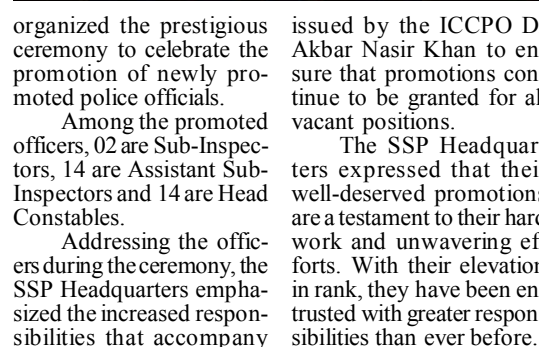
Under the special directives of Islamabad Capital City Police Officer Dr. Akbar Nasir Khan, the process of departmental promotions is currently underway within the Islamabad Capital Police. The SSP Headquarters

ters Sarfaraz Ahmed Virk, in line with this initiative,

their new ranks. He highlighted the clear directives

issued by the ICCPO Dr Akbar Nasir Khan to ensure that promotions continue to be granted for all vacant positions.

The SSP Headquarters expressed that their well-deserved promotions are a testament to their hard work and unwavering efforts. With their elevation in rank, they have been entrusted with greater responsibilities than ever before.



Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Tuesday July 25, 2023

Skewed tax policy

In a statement before the National Assembly on Friday, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar rebuffed reports that the government was planning to impose new taxes on the agriculture and construction — including real estate — sectors.

A day later, he insisted that the taxes on these two sectors agreed with the IMF for its new \$3bn loan, and widely reported in the media, had already been implemented in the budget for this fiscal year. “I want to categorically state that no new tax will be imposed on the agriculture and construction sectors ... we have already endured the pain, and met all prior actions of the IMF programme,” he told parliamentarians.

The budget is estimated to generate additional revenues of Rs80bn by increasing the tax rate for builders and developers and non-filers on the purchase and sale of immovable property and second homes.

The changes in the rates were part of the government effort to secure the IMF bailout by raising additional tax and non-tax revenues during the present financial year to meet the programme goal of producing primary surplus equal to 0.4pc of GDP, as well as strengthen tax collection to 10.3pc of GDP.

Most additional revenue measures were announced on the day parliament approved the budget to satisfy the Fund after the latter's criticism of Mr Dar's original budget that the government had 'missed' the opportunity to broaden the tax base.

Though the tax target was eventually revised upwards, the minister tiptoed around the broader tax policy goal of effectively taxing undertaxed sectors such as retail, agriculture and real estate — especially incomes from these sectors.

However, this did not come as a surprise. The PML-N — or any party for that matter — and the powerful civil and military bureaucracy are averse to taxing incomes from retail, real estate and agriculture, the economy's three largest segments, because of their own vested interests.

Former FBR head Shabbar Zaidi has narrated how he was prevented by the previous army chief from taking steps to document the massive 'file' business in real estate.

This government's tax policy was set by a tweet from PML-N chief organiser Maryam Nawaz last year when she indicated to then finance minister Miftah Ismail through Twitter that he should revoke a nominal tax he had dared to impose on the electricity bills of the party's core support group, ie, retailers.

The narrow tax base and low tax-to-GDP ratio means that the documented corporate sector and salaried classes will bear the burden of any increase in the tax target.

The last two budgets are evidence of this skewed policy. Though the new IMF loan deal commits the government to expand the personal income tax base by adding 300,000 persons, few believe the rulers have the political will to meet this condition.



Maleeha Lodhi

Once again Pakistan has warned the Taliban authorities in Kabul about the consequences of attacks the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is conducting from across the border.

In the most strongly worded statements by Pakistani military and government leaders since the Taliban's return to power two years ago, Kabul was told to ensure Afghanistan's soil is not used to perpetrate terrorist attacks against another country. This was the latest indication of growing strains in relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Two consecutive statements by the military last week voiced serious concerns about “the safe havens and liberty of action available to the TTP in Afghanistan”.

The first came after the visit to Quetta by army chief Gen Asim Munir, which called on the Afghan interim government to abide by the commitments made in the Doha agreement (forged between the US and Taliban in 2020). A remark attributed to him warned of an “effective response” by the country's security forces if attacks continued.

The second statement was issued after a corps commanders conference last Monday which said “the sanctuaries ... available to terrorists of proscribed TTP ... and availability of latest weapons to terrorists were noted [by the conference] as major reasons impacting [the] security of Pakistan”.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif's remarks were just as tough. He accused Kabul of failing to abide by its commitments and said “Afghanistan is neither fulfilling its obligations as a neighbouring country nor safeguarding the Doha agreement”. He said “terrorists who shed the blood of Pakistanis find refuge on Afghan soil”, and warned that “Pakistan would employ all possible resources and measures” in

response.

This round of statements was prompted by the terrorist attack on an army garrison in Balochistan's Zhob town on July 12, which claimed the lives of nine soldiers. The same day an attack in Sui led to three more military casualties.

They were only the latest acts of violence in the area of the province close to the border with Afghanistan, where the TTP has expanded its activities from its main theatre in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. In enlarging its operations to the Pakhtun part of Balochistan the outlawed group has increased the security threat to a province already dealing with violence by Baloch militants.

In fact, there has been a marked escalation in terrorist attacks targeting Pakistan's security forces since the Taliban took over Afghanistan. A Pakistani defence ministry report leaked to the media in May stated that with Kabul unwilling to act against TTP, its regrouping in Afghanistan after the Taliban's assumption of power posed a growing threat to Pakistan's security.

Successive reports by the UN Security Council's Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concluded that “TTP has arguably benefited the most of all the foreign extremist groups in Afghanistan from the Taliban takeover”.

Attacks by TTP surged and became even more brazen after the collapse of its ceasefire with the government in November 2022. The short-lived ceasefire was itself a futile attempt by the Pakistani authorities to end the armed group's 14-year war on Pakistan. A wave of violence followed.

In one of the worst incidents of terrorism, the TTP attacked a mosque in Peshawar's police lines in December which claimed over 100 lives and shook the country. Then too dire warnings were issued by Pakistani officials to the Taliban authorities. But to little avail.

Several rounds of talks with Taliban officials also produced no outcome. In these talks Taliban leaders acknowledged the presence of TTP in their country (which they do not do

publicly), offered assurances about restraining them but asked for time to accomplish this. They also argued that containing TTP was a question of their capacity and not commitment. But Islamabad's patience has been running out.

A high-level Pakistani delegation was dispatched to Kabul in February with a one-point agenda: to make Taliban leaders understand Pakistan's red line on terror attacks from Afghan soil and secure a firm commitment from Kabul to rein in TTP and deny it the sanctuary its fighters enjoy there. In these parleys, Taliban leaders asked for financial assistance, ostensibly to disarm and resettle TTP fighters and their families, estimated to be around 5,000, away from the border with Pakistan. But all this amounted to nothing.

This leaves Pakistan with a predicament on an issue with serious ramifications for the country's security. What are its options? Issue public warnings and hope that this would pressure the Taliban to respond? That

hasn't worked so far and cannot yield an outcome different from the past.

No strategy can rest on hope. Do what Afghan Taliban leaders frequently urge and engage the TTP in talks again? That was a disaster the last time around and backfired badly on the country, whose consequences it is now having to deal with. Talks broke down when it became evident that TTP's demands were non-negotiable.

They included withdrawal of Pakistan's military forces from the border region, reversal of Fata's merger with KP and imposition of Sharia in certain KP areas. Pakistan's military authorities have rightly ruled out talks in acknowledgement of the past blunder. Should Pakistan consider strikes against terrorist hideouts in Afghanistan if the Taliban fail to act against TTP? Undeclared kinetic actions have already been undertaken by Pakistan, targeting TTP and eliminating some senior leaders. But this is not a tenable approach and has obvious risks and drawbacks. -- Courtesy Dawn

Internationalizing a university



Dr Ayesha Razzaque

I recently had the opportunity to visit Incheon in South Korea's greater Seoul area. I spent time at the Incheon Global Campus, a global education hub hosting overseas campuses of some of the world's most prestigious universities, meeting with presidents of four international universities: three American and one Belgian (Ghent University), soon to be joined by another five to six universities that will take it to full capacity. I also had the opportunity to visit universities in the Dubai International Academic City and Dubai Knowledge Park free trade zones. These experiences, together with the desire expressed by leaders of some Pakistani universities to establish campuses overseas in their quest to internationalize their programmes and campus

culture, piqued my interest on this issue.

The Ghent University (South Korea campus) president considers his campus a bridge between Belgium and South Korea and, in the longer term, the two regions. Internationalization offers universities a range of benefits that enrich the educational experience and contribute to institutions' overall growth and success. Internationalization brings together students and faculty from different countries and backgrounds, creating a diverse learning environment. This exposure to various cultures, languages, and perspectives fosters global awareness, cross-cultural understanding, and tolerance, preparing students to thrive in an interconnected world.

It offers enhanced learning opportunities, language skills and communication, greater employability and career opportunities, exchange and mobility programmes, a global alumni network, research collaboration, innovation, and improved positioning to tackle global challenges.

There are two approaches to internationalization: The first is to bring

students from across the world to campus. This entails adapting the admissions process, mechanisms for determining equivalences of educational qualifications of applicants, providing support for finding student accommodations, revamping onboarding processes, supporting student visa applications, and tracking the visa status of arrivals. It amounts to changes in every office and department of the university but is achievable at a relatively low cost.

The other approach, one employed less frequently, turns that upside down and takes the university to the world by establishing a branch campus overseas, in another part of the world. Obviously, this approach requires a sizable investment and often an invitation, incentivization and good relationships with regulatory government departments of the host country.

Data from the Cross-Border Education Research Team (C-BERT) currently puts the worldwide number of overseas branch campuses at 333, spread across 83 host countries. The top-five countries hosting the most overseas branch cam-

puses are China (47 campuses), the United Arab Emirates (30), Singapore (16), Malaysia (15), and Qatar (11). The largest 'exporters' of overseas branch campuses are the United States (84 campuses), United Kingdom (46), Russia (39), France (38), and Australia (20).

The government of Dubai's Knowledge and Human Development Authority (KHDA) puts the number of international universities in Dubai alone at 40 (which suggests that C-BERT's data may be incomplete). The UAE's welcoming policy to university branch campuses is rooted in the country's future strategy which, among other things, seeks to establish it as a regional and global hub for education.

Anecdotal evidence from my own social and professional circles suggest that its approach is bearing fruit; at only a two hours flight-time from Karachi, three hours from Islamabad, and with attractive scholarships available at branch campuses, the UAE is quickly becoming a sought-after study destination for many in Pakistan who can afford to pay more than universities in

Pakistan demand, yet cannot shoulder the full cost of tuition and living expenses of North American or European universities.

Over the last decade, a number of first-rate universities have successfully established branch campuses in the UAE. From the US they include New York University (NYU) Abu Dhabi, the Rochester Institute of Technology Dubai, and the Hult International Business School Dubai. From the UK, the University of Birmingham Dubai, the University of Manchester Worldwide, City University London, the London Business School, the Strathclyde Business School UAE, Middlesex University Dubai, the University of Bradford, Heriot-Watt University, and De Montfort University.

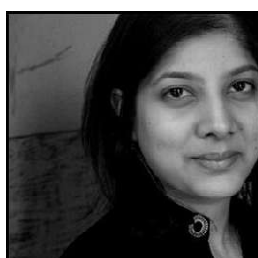
From Australia, the University of Wollongong in Dubai, Murdoch University Dubai and Curtin University. Even our neighbour, India, has contributed the S P Jain School of Global Management, the Birla Institute of Technology and Science Pilani Dubai, Manipal Academy of Higher Ed, and Amity University, all of which are

highly rated by the local regulators.

According to data from C-BERT, the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology (SZABIST) in Dubai is at present the only overseas branch campus of any Pakistani university. Although it maintains one of the lowest ratings by the KHDA, it seems to be getting by financially. Interestingly, there are now rumors of more Pakistani universities waking up to this possibility and making their way to the Middle East. Word has it that LUMS is taking its MBA programme to Dubai next year. NUST, at the insistence of a sizable Pakistani expat community, has also been seen exploring the feasibility of establishing a campus in Saudi Arabia.

At most universities in Pakistan, their understanding of “internationalization” only extends to admitting children of Pakistani expats and emigrants. Accepting these students on international student seats allows them to charge higher tuition fees (often in dollars) and raise much-needed funds. -- Courtesy TheNews

NATO summit



Huma Yusuf

Pakistan's Foreign Office last week offered to mediate between Russia and Ukraine in an effort to end the war. The offer has some credibility on the back of the Ukrainian foreign minister's visit to Islamabad, and Pakistan's repeated insistence of neutrality in that context. And it is a sensible offer from a country desperate for both cheap gas from Russia and wheat from Ukraine. Unfortunately, neutrality seems an increasingly difficult pose to strike in our complex world.

This was a key signal from the recently concluded summit of Nato leaders in Vilnius. Although the summit fell short of announcing a timeline for Ukrainian accession, it gave a clear “us versus them” message, the sense that a new Cold War is already upon us.

The alliance reassured Ukraine of membership at an appropriate time and members' bilateral promises of arms and support to Kyiv, a message that Nato would check Russian ambitions. It also used strong language against China, indicating that Beijing's non-transparent approach, military modernisation and ties with Moscow were all perceived as threats to Nato's interests.

On the other hand, Finland's inclusion — and Sweden's imminent accession — were celebrated because they provide the alliance its greatest-ever territorial reach across Europe, the Baltic Sea and the Arctic Circle. The Baltic Sea was smugly rebranded a ‘Nato lake’.

The alliance made clear its intentions to establish itself as a real contender in the Asia-Pacific theatre. Japan and South Korea attended the summit for the second year in a row, and while the French president blocked the opening of a Nato liaison office in Japan, other plans to entrench Nato's presence in China's backyard were hatched, including ensuring interoperability of Nato and Japanese forces to deploy alongside each other.

Nato's secretary general also drummed home his thesis that security crises are globalised, with issues in Asia having European ramifications, and vice versa — in essence, a justification of Nato's Asian forays.

Nato also made a push to give teeth to its expanded vision. Leaders agreed to a baseline of two per cent of GDP for defence expenditure. Nato's top general also presented defence plans outlining how it would secure the alliance's northern, eastern and southern flanks. Such detailed plans have reportedly not existed since the Cold War era.

Against this backdrop, Islamabad's neutrality seems fragile. Pakistan is, after all, a major non-Nato ally, and one assumes it's a matter of time before Nato messaging regarding Russia and China comes to bear on that status (let's not forget the challenge this January to Pakistan's non-Nato ally status by a US Congressman on the basis that Pakistan was not doing enough to clamp down on the Haqqani Network; could neutrality vis-à-vis Moscow be the next fault decider?). Polarisation of the global landscape has been the story of the past decade, with the divides between populism and pluralism quickly hardening into those between autocracy and democracy.

We are returning to a world of blocs and satellites, and those such as Pa-

kistan seeking neutrality, or particularly trying to balance relations between the US and China, are likely to struggle.

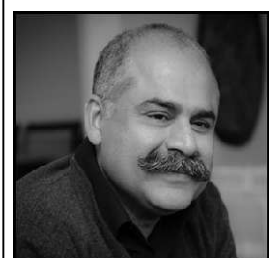
These balancing acts must be central considerations for Islamabad not only as it crafts its foreign policies, but also in the economic arena (for example, we must consider long-term scenarios during the privatisation of key assets that will be of interest to key players from the West, China and Russia).

Beyond polarisation, the Nato summit also held some warnings for civil society in places such as Paki-s-tan where democ-a-tic values are already threatened. The shift to terming the 2pc military expenditure as a floor rather than a ceiling in an era of cost-of-living crises privileges security spending at all costs.

This means IFIs' requirements for underdeveloped countries struggling with debt and seeking bailouts to cut their own military expenditure to cover costs of public service may be perceived as lip service instead. This would be an unfortunate development, diverting from future funding for social welfare, infrastructure and the green transition.

Human rights groups have also criticised Sweden's many concessions to Turkiye to gain approval for its accession to Nato, including the lifting of an arms embargo and the introduction of new laws regarding proscribed groups. Many believe Stockholm has had to throw Kurdish dissidents seeking refuge in Sweden under the proverbial bus in order to secure its Nato spot. This goes against the key criteria for aspiring Nato members to respect democracy, individual liberty and the rule of law. As such, despite prioritising security, the Nato Vilnius summit seems to be hearkening to a scarier world. -- Courtesy Dawn

Quotidian quotas



Shahzad Sharjeel

‘We’ were fewer in number, yet a large swathe of the subcontinent came under us. Then came the British, yet fewer in number, to rule over both ‘us’ and ‘them’. By the time the British were sent off, the ballot and bullet had both gained currency. Strength in numbers determined who called the shots. We insisted that ‘them’ outnumbering ‘us’ was not acceptable and carved out a country from areas where we were in a majority.

The fear of being outnumbered transcends umbrella identities. There are minorities among the majority groupings based on language, race, sect, geography, etc. Division of the subcontinent resulted in the biggest migration in human history. The migrants to Pakistan naturally sought representation in the new polity. The host communities' fears of becoming ‘Red Indians’ on their own soil were stoked. The quota system was born.

Debates of equality vs equity can be taken up in subsequent pieces as space restrictions allow us only to scratch the surface of issues as complex as inclusion, diversity, fairness and merit. The NFC awards and provincial shares in water resources can also be debated separately.

Provincial quotas for federal jobs were introduced in 1948, revised in 1949, and have been amended and extended through successive constitutions and presidential orders. However, the last such extension should have ended the quo-

tas in 2013. Since then, bills for the constitutional amendment to decide the matter have been shuttling between the Upper and Lower Houses of parliament; throw in a few petitions to the courts of law and orders of the Supreme Court, and it is anybody's guess on what basis the quotas persist.

According to the FPSC website Punjab has a 50 per cent share in federal jobs, Sindh has 19pc, KP 11.5pc, Balochistan 6pc, Northern Areas, and Federally Administered Tribal Areas [sic], 4pc, Azad Kashmir 2pc, and Merit 7.5pc. Ten per cent of the respective provincial quotas are reserved for women.

Sindh takes the cake in these reservations as no other province has a further rural-urban, ie, 60-40, subdivision of quotas within the province. Fight over resources is not about their finite nature; it stems from a trust deficit in the other's intentions and fears that any recourse to remedial measures will favour those wielding force. Quotas may appear well-meaning and fairness-oriented initially, but they pose major problems.

First, to qualify for a reserved quota, all one needs is to belong to a certain geographical area, speak a language or belong to a race, religion, or some other identity marker. Quotas are dissimilar to non-discrimination laws, meaning a person otherwise qualified will not be discriminated against on any grounds. What is fundamentally wrong with the quota system is that it does not help anyone in the long run, least of all the intended beneficiaries of these ‘head start’ schemes as they have no graduation programmes. A few individuals belonging to the underserved community or region may benefit but the area or the community gain nothing in terms of competitiveness.

Professional colleges and universities are meant for producing the best doctors, engineers and artists. What does it matter to a patient if her doctor belongs to a certain area, race or religion? If a kidney is removed in what was meant to be a knee replacement, what solace can the aggrieved patient derive from any kinship with the malpractitioner? Fight elite capture, and ensure equitable progress, but not through quotas. -- Courtesy Dawn

PA told Sindh govt will never allow mining of Granite in Karoonjhar in view of people's reservations

KARACHI (APP): The Provincial Assembly (PA) of Sindh on Monday was informed that the Sindh government would never permit the lease or mining of Granite in Karoonjhar, Nagarparkar, keeping in view the reservations of the people.

The Sindh Minister for Mines and Mineral Development Mir Shabbir Ali Bijarani replying to a point of order on the floor of the house, raised by MPA Rana Ansar and other MPs, said that the provincial government would not take any step against the desires of the people of the province.

He said that the issue of Granite mining had been highlighted. He further said that no work had been carried out on the lease of Granite since 2018.

Bijarani said that the provincial government had also written a letter to

UNESCO to declare the Karoonjhar Mountain Range as a heritage.

He said that previously a Committee was formed to know about the views of the people on Karoonjhar and the Committee had submitted its report to him, which would be tabled in the Cabinet. Sindh Minister for Excise, Taxation and Parliamentary Affairs Mukesh Kumar Chawal replying to a point of order regarding Dacoits in a rural area, said that they were not dacoits but it was a clash between tribes and an FIR had been registered against 150 persons.

Earlier, the Sindh Assembly carried out five bills including the Introduction and consideration of the government bill no. 25 of 2023 The University of Larkano Bill, the

consideration of the report of the standing committee on finance on government bill no. 24 of 2022 The Sindh Fiscal Responsibility and Debt Management Bill 2022, Presentation and consideration of report of the standing committee on law, parliamentary affairs and human rights on government bill no. 07 of 2023. The Sindh Arms (Amendment) Bill 2023, Presentation and consideration of the report of the standing committee on law, parliamentary affairs and human rights on government bill no. 15 of 2023 The Sindh Social Protection Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023 and Presentation and consideration of report of the standing committee on law, parliamentary affairs and human rights on government bill no. 21 of 2023.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali, Caretaker Chief Minister KP and Chief Secretary KP Nadeem Asalm Chaudhary discussing the rehabilitation efforts and losses in Chitral owing to heavy rains in the area.

Naqvi calls for immediate drainage of rainwater

Fort Kuhna Qasim to be rehabilitated into its original form

Independent Report
MILTAN: Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister, Syed Mohsin Naqvi, took notice of the accumulation of rainwater in various areas of the city and ordered immediate drainage of water.

He paid a visit to various parts of the city including Ghanta Ghar, Fish market, Eid Gah, Cantt, Shujabad road, and other areas, and reviewed the drainage condition after the rain here on Monday evening.

He directed Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) to mobilize all machinery and resources and asked Deputy Commissioner Umar Jehangir to personally monitor the drainage of rainwater.

CS asks distt admins to assist ECP in conducting local bodies by-election

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry on Monday directed district administrations to assist the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) in holding peaceful, transparent and fair local body by-elections.

The Chief Secretary gave the instruction in a meeting, called here to review security arrangements for by-elections.

Chief Secretary, IG Police Punjab, Additional Chief Secretary South Punjab, and Additional Inspector General of Police South Punjab were accompanied by the chief minister. Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi said that Fort Kuhna Qasim was a historic asset and would be rehabilitated into its original form.

He said this while visiting Fort Kuhna Qasim, here on Monday. Mohsin Naqvi, however, expressed displeasure over the poor cleanliness arrangement and instructed officials concerned to ensure cleanliness arrangements.

The chief minister also ordered the widening of a door and its restoration to its original condition.



SUKKUR: Rescue officials are busy in rescue operation after a two-storey building collapsed due to heavy rainfall, in Sukkur on Monday, July 24, 2023. Four people were dead and several others were injured as a two-storey building collapsed in Sukkur due to heavy rainfall on Monday.

Governor Punjab calls on PM

LAHORE (APP): Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman on Monday called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

During the meeting, the current situation in the country particularly, the administrative matters and law and order situation in Punjab province were discussed, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Separately, a delegation of renowned political personalities led by Rana Mashood, a former provincial minister, also called on the prime minister.

They discussed the current political situation in the country.

Director of examinations PPSC dies in firing incident

PESHAWAR (Online): Director of examinations of Public service commission Mohammad Arshad was shot dead in Peshawar.

Director of examinations of public service Commission Mohammad Arshad has been killed by unidentified persons on ring road of Peshawar.

After firing the suspects easily escaped.

Dead body of Director of examinations public service commission Mohammad Arshad has been shifted to hospital.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Baligh Ur Rehman calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Use of IT helps improving service delivery: Ejaz Qureshi

KARACHI (APP): The Federal Ombudsman Pakistan Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi, on Monday, said that the use of information technology, public facilitation, and merit-based appointments in government organizations could help improve service delivery and substantially reduce public complaints.

He, while briefing the media on the performance of the FO Secretariat during the visit of the Regional Office Karachi, observed that the number of public complaints filed with the federal Ombudsman against NADRA and SNGPL had reduced significantly with the improvement of their IT-based digital system.

The utilisation of information technology not only strengthens the monitoring system but it also ensures transparency in the routine business of the organization, he noted adding that the establishment of facilitation desks at all major offices of public entities for the guidance of the public and registration of their complaints might also result into a decrease of grievances.

The ombudsman also emphasised on the appointment of organisational heads on merit and said that an

efficient and capable head could improve the overall efficiency of an agency.

Ejaz Qureshi said that FOS had introduced IT system in the secretariat in 2008 and now digital system was fully active in the FO Secretariat and entire status of all the offices around the country could easily be accessed with just a single click.

Ejaz Qureshi said that efforts were underway to make federal ombudsman secretariat more active and effective for ensuring resolution of issues of public at the earliest and provision of relief to them.

The Ombudsman informed that in the year 2023 the secretariat received 102,520 complaints to date while number of disposed off cases remained 103,291. He anticipated that number of complaints may reach above 180,000 in the current year.

He informed that the FO secretariat had received 164,173 complaints in year 2022 which were 49% higher than the 110,405 complaints filed in 2021 while number of disposed of complaints in 2022 remained 157,798 that showed 48% increase as compared to the previous year.

The Federal

Ombudsman Secretariat (FOS) disposes off a complaint within 60 days while implementation of the decision was also ensured within a month, Qureshi said adding that the compliance ratio in decided cases was over 90 percent while implementation in the remaining cases delayed due to nonavailability of funds with the relevant agency, filing of appeal to the president or matter taken to court.

He said that power distribution companies and natural gas-providing companies had a vast clientele consisting of millions of people that's why a number of complaints against them was also higher.

The same was the case with other government entities those deal with public or have a large number of employees he argued and added that number of public complaints against BISP, NADRA, and Postal Life insurance was higher.

He said that regional offices of the ombudsman were working in different major cities while open meetings of advisers were also being conducted at towns and tahseel headquarters to listen to and resolve complaints of people in far flung areas.



FAISALABAD: Ahmad Farooq Senior Advisor to Federal Ombudsman is visiting Executive Office of Regional Passport Office at Koh-e-Noor Chowk.

Commissioner, RPO visit control room set up to monitor security

RAWALPINDI (APP): Commissioner Rawalpindi Division Liaquat Ali Chatta along with Regional Police Officer (RPO), Rawalpindi Syed Khuram Ali here on Monday visited the control room set up to monitor security arrangements during Muharram ul Haram.

The Commissioner was briefed regarding the security arrangements finalized for the routes of the 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th of Muharram processions and Majalis.

The control room would remain operational 24 hours and focal persons of all the departments

concerned would remain on duty, he directed.

Security arrangements were being monitored through cameras, he said adding, night vision cameras were also being used for effective monitoring of the processions and majalis.

Implementation of Muharram Code of Conduct and Standard Operating Procedures would be ensured strictly, he said.

All available resources were being used to maintain law and order situation during Muharram, Liaquat Ali said.

Scholar sees great potential in SU faculty members

HYDERABAD (APP): Professor of South Asian and Post-colonial Pakistan Studies, North Carolina Central University and President, American Institute of Pakistan Studies (AIPS) USA Dr Matthew A. Cook has said that the institute would assist the Pakistan Study Centre (PSC), University of Sindh in bringing US faculty for conducting training and development of strong academic linkages with the US varsities.

He said that the teachers and scholars of the university should send the manuscripts regarding Sindh, its culture, heritage and civilization, which would be published in

Scopus verified Journal of Pakistan Critical Studies.

This he said while talking to an interactive session at the Pakistan Study Centre, University of Sindh Jamshoro on Monday. Dr. Matthew A. Cook said that the session would be a first step towards establishing academic linkages and research cooperation between the American Centre and SU. He said that such sessions would ensure people to people contact between the US and Pakistan.

"There is great potential and talent in the faculty members and PhD scholars of the University of Sindh Jamshoro".

Governor Sindh lauds USAID's contribution in social sector

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori while lauding the contribution of USAID in the social sector in the province, has said that USAID is helping in the provision of improved facilities to the masses, especially health and education sectors.

This he said during a meeting with the Consul General of USA in Karachi Ms. Nicole Theriot at Governor House here Monday.

Bilateral relations, investment opportunities in the province, projects of USAID, IT program under Governor's initiative and other matters of mutual interests were discussed on the occasion.

Governor Sindh said that US investment would generate employment and help in reducing poverty. IT program is aimed at

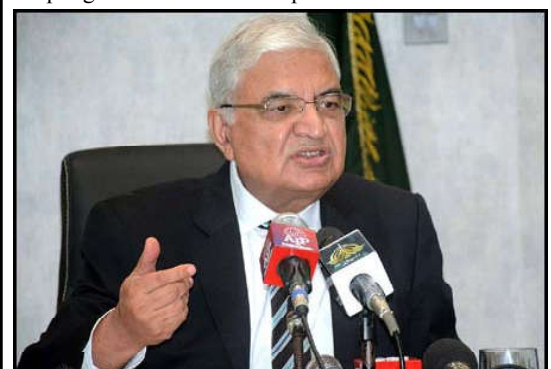
making the youth financially empowered, he added.

Consul General said that US investors are interested in investing in various sectors in the province.

She lauded various public welfare projects including IT courses for youth. Later, she visited the 'Bell of Hope' where Governor Sindh informed her about the objectives of installing this bell.

She also witnessed the registration process of Taqatwar Pakistan Ration bags and distributed ration amongst registered persons.

Ms. Nicole Theriot along with Governor Sindh visited Quaid's Room and saw the personal belongings of the father of the nation Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah preserved there.



KARACHI: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmed Qureshi briefing media on performance of Federal Ombudsman Secretariat during visit of Regional Office.

Opposition leader has gone 'Underground': Sharjeel

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Minister for Information Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday said that the Opposition Leader in Sindh Assembly Haleem Adil Shaikh had gone 'Underground'.

He said that the Opposition Leader must come up and he would not be sieged. While talking to media persons on the premises of the Sindh Assembly, he said that the Sindh government had taken notice of Karoonjhar issue and would protect it.

He said that the more new buses reached Karachi and the process of their non-stop arrival would continue.

Replying to a question, Sharjeel said that PPP leader Faisal Karim Kundi had clearly said that no consultation had been carried out on the caretaker PM and the party had formed a three-member committee on the matter.

Answering a question at the GDA meeting, he said that the PPP would give the message of unity.

The Minister claimed that 80 per cent of GDA members were in contact with PPP.

Replying to another question on growing street crime, he said that the chief minister had issued necessary directives to resolve the issue.

Malteser Int'l delegation witnesses impacts of devastating flood in Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): A delegation of Malteser International Headquarters, under the leadership of the head of the Regional Groups of Asia, Cordulla Wasser visited the Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) on Monday.

The purpose of the visit was to engage with the flood-affected communities and explore how the organization could support them in building resilience against climate change impacts and identify new opportunities, evaluate the ongoing projects' effectiveness, and strengthen partnerships

with SRSO. The focus was on empowering communities to drive their own development and enhance disaster risk reduction initiatives.

On the occasion, Provincial Secretary Social Welfare Sindh, Dr Shereen Mustafa Narejo Chief Executive Officer (CEO), SRSO Muhammad Dittal Kalhoro, Regional General Manager SRSO, Dr Ghulam Rasool Samejo were accompanied by the delegation.

They went to rural Sindh, the region hardest hit by the devastation of the flood. In the village Muhammad Nawaz Rind UC Bugro.



KARACHI: Vehicles passing through accumulated rainwater after rain in Provincial capital.

Rangers conduct flag march regarding security of Muharram

LARKANA (APP): Wing Commander Shahbaz Rangers along with other officials of Rangers also inspected routes of Muharram processions and sites of Majalis.

Rangers are performing their professional duties to ensure peace, tranquility, law, and order during Muharram in Larkana.

On the directives of Director General Rangers Sindh Major General Azhar Waqas control rooms had been established at various points.

Commander Shahbaz Rangers Lt. Col. Mohammad Baig led a flag march of Police, a convoy of Rangers vehicles and motorcycles, that took a round of Larkana city as part of Muharram security arrangements in the district on Monday.

The convoy took its start from Rangers Headquarters Larkana and passed through all the main roads of Larkana city and other areas of the city. Later, the Wing

Fake pesticides, fertilizers worth Rs 16.3 mln seized in DGK

DG KHAN (APP): The agriculture department seized fake fertilizers and pesticides worth Rs 16.3 million from different dealers during raids in the ongoing month of July in Dera Ghazi Khan division.

This was disclosed in a meeting of the Crop Management Committee headed by Dr Nasir Mahmood Bashir, here on Monday. The officials informed that 14 samples collected from different dealers proved substandard and fake. The administration also got cases registered against 36 persons.

Modern technology, alternative energy inevitable to achieve exports competitiveness: PM

SHEIKHUPURA (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said that the utilization of modern technology and alternative energy by the industrial sector were inevitable to make exports competitive in the international market.

The prime minister, addressing the soft launching of Ombre Special Economic Zone, Sundar Green Special Economic Zone and Smart Special Economic Zone, said owing to surging oil prices, the only option was to exploit the potential of solar, wind and hydel energy for the cost-effectiveness of local products.

He said the issue of circular debt was required to be addressed on a war-footing basis, which was swelling due to wasting billions of rupees annually because of line and transmission losses as well as power theft.

The prime minister

appreciated the private sector for chalking out a plan to establish the three special economic zones and assured all-out support from the federal and Punjab governments.

He said the commitment by the private sector to attract investment worth billions of rupees was also laudable, besides their plans to set up a three-megawatt solar power plant and other allied facilities like the vocational training center.

He hoped that the interim government would also take all possible measures to keep the national economy on track of progress, as the incumbent one was already making necessary legislation to pave the way for future course of action.

The prime minister told the gathering that an agreement between Pakistan and Azerbaijan for the import of LNG was

signed earlier in the day under which the latter would provide an LNG shipment per month with the former having the option to purchase it or not, in accordance with the needs and without any penalty.

Similarly, he said, the private sector should also sign the deals with Qatar to import LNG for industrial use – not for sale in the market – and assured that the Federal Government would facilitate them at the Karachi Port. Prime Minister Shehbaz also called for spreading the network of SEZs across the country. He said during Nawaz Sharif's last government, the SEZs were planned across the country under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, but, despite complete mapping and other formalities, all the projects faced unnecessary delay, except Rashakai.



LAHORE: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif signing the plaque of the groundbreaking of the Smart Special Economic Zone Sheikhupura, in Provincial Capital.

Senate body on power refers matter of recovery of US \$32 million to FIA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senate Power Committee referred the matter of recovery of amount of damaged GT-14 (747MW) to the Federal Investigation Bureau.

A meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Power was convened on Monday under the Chairmanship of Senator Saifullah Abro here at the Parliament House.

The Committee discussed at length the matter of the recovery of amount of damaged GT-14 (747 MW) from GE and after being dissatisfied on the briefing by the acting CEO GHCL directed the Power Division to refer the matter to the FIA as amount of US \$32 million is in question.

The Committee also directed the Power Division to refer the matter of the constitution of the new Members of BoDs and also recommended to appoint fresh Members of BoDs as per qualification and merit. The Committee while discussing the matter inquired on the action taken regarding the three letters issued by Power Division on 31-3-2022 on

the recovery amount to which the acting CEO, GHCL apprised the Committee that the letter issued by the Power Division and the actions to be taken therein were rejected by the BoD, GHCL as the BoD did not approve of the allegations therein. The Committee showed amazement on exercise of such authority and inquired the rationale behind rejecting the letter by the ministry. The acting CEO, GHCL confirmed the fact that the entire management of the GHCL was lacking competency and persistence lethargy responsible for corrupting the whole department. The Committee while further discussing the status of appointment of CEO, GHCL recommended re-advertising the post with qualification requirement as combination of both the degrees/diploma in Engineering and Business Administration and in case the company already has a CFO with required qualification, the only degree to be preferred is that of "Engineering". The Committee also sought list of scrutiny based on the

previous advertisement. The acting CEO, GHCL also admitted that fact that no revamping took place leading to consistent irregularities and damages to the power sector.

Furthermore, the Committee unanimously decided to make Amendments in the "State-owned Enterprises (Governance & Operations) Act, 2023 (Act No. VII of 2023)" regarding matters of a p p o i n t m e n t s, composition of the BoDs and other matters of the HR in the Power Division and observe strict relevancy.

The Committee while taking briefing on the progress of 2X66 MW (132MW) Coal Fired Power Project, Jamshoro, showed resentment on the unpreparedness of the representative of acting CEO, GENCO-I and showed serious concern over the fact that when allotment of total amount of the project has been made how come it is still not completed. The Committee lamented that had it been completed 2 years back when dollar.



Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Finance Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Finance Division, Islamabad

Power Division directed to refer \$32m damaged matter to GT-14 7474 MW to FIA

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Senate Standing Committee on Power Monday directed the Ministry of Power Division to refer the matter of recovery \$ 32 million damaged to GT-14 (747 MW) from GE to Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) for investigation.

The committee which met with Senator Saifullah Abro in the Chair decided to refer the matter to FIA after being dissatisfied on the briefing by the acting CEO GHCL.

The Committee discussed at length the matter of the recovery of amount of damaged GT-14 (747 MW) from GE.

The Committee also directed the Power Division to refer the matter of the constitution of the new Members of BoDs and also recommended to

appoint fresh Members of BoDs as per qualification and merit.

The committee while discussing the matter inquired on the action taken regarding the three letters issued by Power Division on 31-3-2022 on the recovery amount to which the acting CEO, GHCL apprised that the letter issued by the Power Division and the actions to be taken therein were rejected by the BoD, GHCL as the BoD did not approve of the allegations therein. The committee while further discussing the status of appointment of CEO, GHCL recommend re-advertising the post with qualification requirement as combination of both the degrees/diploma in Engineering and Business Administration.

PTCL Group collaborates with GSMA to address Digital gender disparity

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan's leading ICT services provider, PTCL Group (comprising PTCL & Ufone 4G) joined forces with the Global System for Mobile Communications (GSMA) to co-host a momentous knowledge-sharing workshop titled "Connected Women Strategy Workshop."

The primary objective of this workshop was to tackle the gender gap in mobile usage in Pakistan, leveraging insights from the authoritative Mobile Gender Gap 2023 report, said a news release issued here on Monday. During the workshop, the invaluable expertise of the GSMA team in the realm of mobile technology usage by micro-entrepreneurs played a pivotal role in guiding the PTCL Group team. The

collaborative efforts led to the identification of strategic pathways for harnessing the transformative potential of mobile technology. This newfound understanding facilitated the development of innovative approaches tailored explicitly towards empowering women micro-entrepreneurs, fostering their growth, inclusivity, and economic empowerment through the effective utilization of mobile technology. Sajid Munir, Group VP Commercial Strategy, PTCL & Ufone 4G, expressed "Amplifying connectivity for women across Pakistan is our unwavering dedication. Working hand in hand with GSMA, we share the mission to ensure that women from every corner of the nation.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Gas carrier 'LPG-FSM' carrying 2,200 tonnes of LPG arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on 22nd July, 2023.

A total of 06 ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them four ships, Maersk Nayassa, Al-Areesh, Summer-Pleog and Sea-Ranger sailed out to sea on Monday morning (today), while another ship 'San-Antonio' is expected to sail on same day. Cargo throughput of 68,986 tonnes, comprising 38,130 tonnes imports Cargo and 30,856 tonnes export cargo, including containerized cargo carried in 1,403 Containers (30 TEUs Imports and 1,373 TEUs export) was handled at the port during last 24 hours.

RDA generates Rs 851 mln revenue during last fiscal year

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Metropolitan Planning and Traffic Engineering (MP&TE) Directorate, Rawalpindi Development Authority (RDA) generated revenue amounting to Rs 851 million against the target of Rs 565 million set for 2022-23 fiscal year.

According to RDA spokesperson, the Land Use and Building Control (LU&BC) Wing had collected Rs 558 million and Planning Wing collected Rs 293 million during last fiscal year 2022-23, which is one of the highest revenue recovery generated by the department.

He said that RDA succeeded to generate more revenue because of hard work and commitment of the officials concerned.

The spokesman informed that the Land Use and Building Control Wing had approved 1728 residential building plans and 151 commercial maps that were submitted by the citizens at One Window Operation Centre of RDA.



FAISALABAD: A view of the loaded trucks from Corns, parked along the Satyana road in City.

NEPRA reserves decision on govt application seeking hike in electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online): NEPRA having completed hearing on government application seeking hike in electricity tariff by Rs 7.50 per unit has reserved its decision.

Chairman heard government application in regard to enhancement in power tariff Monday. Power division gave briefing to NEPRA.

NEPRA said devaluation of rupee and capacity payments are major reason behind hike in power tariff. How much increase has to be made for what slab is job of government. This is political and administrative decision which has to be made by the government. NEPRA has done its job and it has made its recommendation.

Member Sindh NEPRA Rafiq Sheikh while expressing his helplessness questioned which is law that empowers government to determine subsidy. Which law gives power to government that how much subsidy has to be given to what slab.

On question from member NEPRA, Power division authorities told government will provide subsidy to the tune of Rs 158 billion to the electricity consumers. No increase in tariff will be made for the consumers using electricity upto 200 units.

Chairman NEPRA said the burden is going to other consumers due to provision of subsidy to the protected.

Ministry of energy authorities said 40 percent consumers are living below poverty line in the country. Government is providing subsidy to these consumers.

Member NEPRA Sheikh Rafiq said what rates are running in the world and what is situation in Pakistan.

Ji Amir Hafiz Naem ur Rehman said the most financial burden will shift to salaried class and urban population. Chairman NEPRA listens but he does not do any work on it. You did nothing during four year.

Gold imports increase by 35.48 % in FY2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of gold increased by 35.48 percent during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported.

The gold imports during the July-June (2022-23) were recorded at \$30.651 million as compared to the imports of \$22.623 million during July-June (2021-22), according to the data.

In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 496 kilograms of gold during the months under review as compared to the imports of 361 kilograms last year, showing growth of 37.40 percent.

Meanwhile on year-on-year basis, the gold imports into the country witnessed a decrease of 48.22 percent as these were recorded at \$3.273 million in June 2023 against the imports of \$3.641 million in June 2022.

In terms of quantity, the imports of the commodity declined by 11.86 percent, from 59 kilograms in June 2022 to 52 kilograms in June 2023. Meanwhile, on month-on-month basis, the gold imports during June 2023 decreased by 4.33 percent when compared to the imports of \$3.421 million in May 2023.

It is pertinent to mention here that the overall trade deficit witnessed a decline of 43.03 percent during the fiscal year 2022-23 as compared to the previous year (2021-22).

The trade deficit during July-June (2022-23) was recorded at \$27.547 billion.

Iran Ambassador calls on Dar, discusses bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Monday called on Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar and discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations.

The minister welcomed the ambassador and extended felicitations on assuming the charge of ambassador in Pakistan, said a news release issued here.

Ishaq Dar extended blessings to the Iranian leadership and people at the start of the new Islamic year and highlighted deep-rooted historical relations between both countries based on age-old commonalities.

During the meeting, they discussed in detail various fields for mutual cooperation including trade, investment, and security between the two countries.

They discussed enhancing trade relations by activating the recently inaugurated border markets and opening of three more

border markets between the two countries in order to achieve the optimal trade volume through the border trade mechanism and removing technical hurdles in enhancing trade relations between the two countries.

Collaboration in the banking sector between the two countries also came under discussion as the heads of central banks of the two countries would meet next week in Pakistan to discuss and sort out the issues related to banking cooperation.

The finance minister and the ambassador appreciated the decisions of the Joint Economic Ministerial Commission, which convened after five years and stressed upon fast track implementation of actions to enhance bilateral trade and economic ties between the two countries.

The two sides also discussed Iran-Pakistan Gas Pipeline and stressed on resolving technical hurdles mutually for the benefit of both countries.



QUETTA: Iranian Deputy Consul General Ali Raza Astwari in a group photo with members of Quetta Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Naqvi instructs officials to ensure sale of cotton against Rs 8500/40kg

MULTAN (Online): Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab Mohsin Naqvi said on Monday that farmers would be given a proper price of Rs 8500/40kg at all costs.

He was chairing a meeting to review the ongoing situation of the cotton crop, here. Mohsin Naqvi instructed officers to ensure the sale of cotton not less than Rs 8500/40. Nobody will be allowed to

exploit farmers. The farmers will be given handsome returns against their produce. During the ongoing season, the cotton crop was sown over 5 million acres and termed it a record in the ongoing scenario. He lauded the efforts of the agriculture department, officials of district government and farmers for collective efforts to promote white gold (cotton).

OICCI commends PM's leadership in securing IMF SBA

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OICCI) has commended Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his finance team for timely leadership and initiative in securing the IMF's Standby Agreement (SBA) of \$3 billion for next nine months to ensure that the economy was not subjected to additional shocks.

"Together with the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) rapid lending of \$1.2 billion, the friendly countries have also helped uplift the foreign exchange reserves, thereby providing a significant step towards economic stability and progress."

OICCI President Amir Paracha said in a statement on Monday. He said this sentiment was reflected in the developments at the Pakistan Stock Exchange, currency market and the business environment in general.

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (HCCI) President, Adeel Siddiqui addresses during National Exporters Training Program organized by Trade Development Authority of Pakistan held at HCCI in Hyderabad

NTDC, AFD sign €180m project agreement for construction of grid stations

ISLAMABAD (APP): French Development Agency (AFD) and the National Transmission and Dispatch Company Limited (NTDC) entered into a project agreement for the provision of €180 million soft loan for the construction of NTDC projects.

Engr. Dr. Rana Abdul Jabbar Khan, Managing Director NTDC and Mr. Philippe STEINMETZ, Country Director AFD, signed the project agreement here Monday on behalf of their respective organizations.

The funds provided through this loan will assist NTDC in the execution of various projects aimed at enhancing the power transmission and distribution systems in Punjab.

The projects include the construction of a new 220 kV grid station and a 50 km transmission line in Arifwala, which will be connected to the MEPCO distribution system.

Additionally, the existing 220 kV grid station in Vehari will be upgraded to 500 kV level, along with a 48 km transmission line. This upgrade will significantly increase the transmission capacity and benefit the consumers of MEPCO. Furthermore, a new 500 kV grid station in Sialkot together with 91 km of transmission lines.



Senator Saifullah Abro, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Power presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament house Islamabad.

Hina calls for realizing blue economy potential

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Foreign Secretary Dr. Asad Majeed Khan and Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) Vice Admiral Ovais A Bilgrami led the respective sides for the talks. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar presided the meeting. The Ministry of Maritime Affairs was also represented in the meeting. The meeting provided an opportunity for a comprehensive overview of Pakistan's maritime interests including in the domain of maritime security, blue economy.

Secretary LG directs

Concerned quarters to take necessary action in view of rain spell

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Local Government Department has issued necessary directives to all concerned to take necessary action in view of the flashflood and rains in different parts of the province. According to an official hand out issued here on Monday, the Secretary Local Government directs



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Law & Justice Senator Azam Nazir Tarar called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf.

Zia for early arrest of accused involved in attack on Asad residence

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Provincial Minister for Home and Tribal Affairs, Mir Ziaullah Langove has taken notice of the attack on residence of the Provincial Minister Mir Asadullah Baloch in Panjgur. In an official statement issued here on Monday, the Minister Home strongly condemned the attack at the residence of Mir Asadullah Baloch by unknown persons. He also sought report

CCoIGCT approves G2G agreement between UAE and Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT) on Monday approved G2G draft framework agreement between United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Pakistan for the ratification of the Federal Cabinet. The meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired, said a press release issued here. The agreement will be signed between the governments of the UAE and Pakistan. The CCoIGCT considered summary of Ministry of Maritime Affairs regarding G2G agreement



QUETTA: Provincial head of WHO Balochistan, Dr. Asfand Yar Shirani meeting with Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Science and IT Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi

Khawaja Haris continues cross-examination of witness in Toshakhana case

ISLAMABAD (APP): Khawaja Haris, counsel of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chairman on Monday continued cross-examination of the prosecution witness in the Toshakhana criminal case. Additional District and Sessions Judge Hamayun Dilwar heard the criminal case lodged by the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP). The PTI chief appeared before the court along with his lawyer amid foolproof security arrangements. At the outset of hearing, the judge remarked that he had written to the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) regarding actions about the Facebook posts



ISLAMABAD: Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hina Rabbani Khar speaking at annual talks between Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Pakistan Naval Headquarters.

ECC approves fixation of Maximum Retail Prices of 25 new drugs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) on Monday approved the fixation of Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of Twenty-Five (25) new drugs. The cabinet committee meeting was chaired by Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar, according to a press statement issued by the finance ministry. Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations, and Coordination submitted a summary regarding the fixation of MRPs of 26 new drugs. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research submitted a summary for allocation of Pakistan Agricultural Storage and Services Corporation (PASSCO's) wheat amongst recipient agencies/ provinces/ areas for the year 2023-24 and informed that the recipient agencies have made their demand of 2,488,000 MT for the food year 2023-24. The ECC after discussion allowed allocation of wheat amongst the recipients @ 50% local and 50%

Two held with 37.370 kg narcotics in Duki

QUETTA (APP): Levies Force foiled a bid of narcotics smuggling and arrested two people after recovering 37.370 kg narcotics from their possession in Duki area of Balochistan on Monday. Assistant Commissioner (AC) Muhammad Hanif Kabzai, Rasalddar Khan Loni and other officials said in press conference that on special directive of Deputy Commissioner Duki Miran Baloch, Levies force team started checking vehicles at different check posts. AC said that a suspected vehicle was checked and was recovered 37.370 kg charrs from it by Levies force. He said that two people namely Abdul Razzaq and Rehmatullah resident of Pishin have been arrested after recovering narcotics which worth was million of rupees in market from their vehicle.

WHO to establish 26 labour rooms in flood-stricken areas of Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): World Health Organization (WHO) has launched a project to establish 26 labour rooms besides initiating the repair work of 100 calamity-hit health facilities in the flood-affected region of Balochistan. A total of 26 new labour rooms will be established to provide quality and better maternity facilities to women of the province. WHO provincial chief while briefing the parliamentary secretary said that a dental unit has also been established at Osta Mohammad while warehouses have also been set up each at DHO office Naseerabad and Jaffarabad districts respectively. Earlier, the Parliamentary secretary appreciated the cooperation of the World Health Organization for the provision of medical services to the needy patients of Balochistan.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman NDMA presiding Special Session of NEOC on monsoon situation.

Dr. Zahoor joins HEC as DG

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Professor Dr. Zahoor Ahmed Bazai has joined the Higher Education Commission (HEC) Islamabad as Director General. According to an official notification issued by the HEC, Professor Dr. Zahoor Bazai has joined HEC Islamabad as Director General on deputation basis in his own pay scale i.e., BPS-21 initially for a period of one year (extendable) w.e.f. 19-07-2023 on the standard terms and condition. He is posted to HEC Regional Center Quetta. Earlier, he was relieved from the post of Director QAAD University of Balochistan Quetta / Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Loralai.

Woman died, husband injured in road accident

QUETTA (APP): A woman died while her husband sustained injuries when a speeding truck hit their motorcycle on National Highway near Sherani area of Zhob district on Monday. According to Levies sources, the victim along with his wife was on his way to somewhere on a motorbike when a speeding truck hit them. As a result, the husband received injuries and his wife died on the spot. The body and the injured were rushed to a nearby hospital where the injured treatment was started. The identity of both victims could not be ascertained so far.



QUETTA: Awami National Party (ANP) Leader, Dr. Inayatullah Kasi addresses during the inauguration ceremony of Provincial Election Commission Membership held at Quetta press club.

Alvi for enhancing economic linkages with Ethiopia

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday asked Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Ethiopia to foster trade and economic linkages with Ethiopia by facilitating and enhancing interactions between business communities of the two countries. He also urged the ambassador to work towards increasing trade volume with Ethiopia by reaching out to their businesspersons for the import of Pakistani products. The president was talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia Mian Atif Sharif, who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release. President Alvi said that Pakistan-Ethiopia bilateral ties were marked by common history, interests, and support for each other on various international fora. He said that the bilateral relations between the two countries needed to be further cemented by taking the mutual trade volume to its fullest potential. The president also called for enhancing cooperation in the field of education and people-to-people contacts, adding that students in Ethiopia could benefit from online/ video educational materials/ courses of the Virtual University of Pakistan and Allama Iqbal Open University to enhance their skill sets. He said that Pakistan's offer of training young Ethiopian diplomats at the Foreign Service Academy and scholarships for banking courses would further help improve bilateral ties with Ethiopia. The president asked the ambassador to create awareness in Ethiopia about the rising tide of Islamophobia in the world and the need for collective efforts to promote inter-faith harmony and mutual respect. He also urged the newly-appointed envoy to highlight the human rights violations and atrocities being committed by India in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) as well as the maltreatment of minorities.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Iftikhar Ali Shallwani federal Secretary Health, MoNHSR&C during the Event of "Dissemination of Who and Unicef Estimates on National Immunization Coverage" WUENIC Pakistan 2022 Data.

MCMC participants visit IGP office, SERA, Hydro Power Project AJK

Independent Report
QUETTA: In last leg of the study tour of Islamabad and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK), the participants of Mid-career Management Course (MCMC) visited the Inspector General of Police office, State Earthquake Relief Authority (SERA) and 150-Megawatt patterned Hydro Power Project on Monday. During the visit, DIG AJK Police Shehryar Sikandar received the participants of course at CPO and briefed them about the security and other related matters in AJK. A working lunch was arranged for the course participants by the AJK police. Later, in last phase of their visit, the MCMC participants also visited the 150-mega watt hydro power project at the Kunhar river, Jehlum. The project administration gave detailed presentation on the Hydro power project. They were informed about the importance of Hydro power projects in AJK for overcoming the energy deficit in the country. Meanwhile, they also visited the site of the project where they went round of the control room, power generation unit. The Director General Civil services Academy, Dr. Abdul Hafeez Jamali thanked the hosts for the hospitality. He also presented them the commemorative shield and other gifts.

Retired FC employee gets dues of pension thanks to Federal Ombudsman

Independent Report
QUETTA: A retired employee of Frontier Constabulary (FC) was paid the dues of pension amounting to Rs. 114,000 by the AGPR Quetta on orders of the Federal Ombudsman. As per the details, a retired employee of FC had submitted an application in the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office Quetta by post from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa that he has come to his native area from Quetta, but the AGPR has not paid the dues of his pension yet. According to the applicant, he requested the AGPR in written for several time to pay his pension dues, but to no avail. Finally, he approached the Federal Ombudsman Office, which made it possible after completing inquiry and other necessary formalities in this regard. Later, an amount of Rs. 114,000 was deposited in the bank account of the application account of his pension dues. On this, the applicant thanked the Federal Ombudsman saying that his longstanding issue has been resolved.



QUETTA: Quetta Administrator, Jabbar Baloch presides over a meeting on cleanliness drive in connection of the Holy month of Muharram-ul-Haram, at his office.

3-member committee formed to probe IUB scandal

BAHAWALPUR (APP): Ameen Bukhari, and DIG Raja Faisal will probe the alleged sale and purchase of drugs in the university, obscene videos and photos, and identify the involved persons. It will submit a report to the Chief Minister. The IUB Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Athar Mahboob has welcomed the formation of the committee.

Law Minister calls on NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Law and Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar Monday called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in his office to discuss matters related to pending legislative business. The delegation of Lawyers' community of Gujran Khan Bar Council was also present in the meeting, said a news release issued here. The meeting discussed the issues being faced by the lawyers' community in Gujran Khan. The speaker said resolving the problems being faced by the lawyers of Gujran Khan Bar Council had been his top priority.

Pakistan to host 3rd D-8 Ministerial meeting on Tourism Coop. on Aug 4-5

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan will host the 4th D-8 Senior Officials Meeting and 3rd D-8 Ministerial Meeting on Tourism Cooperation for the first time in the country on August 4-5 at Bhurban, Murree. The meeting, being organized by the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), will be followed by the technical visit to the Federal Capital on August 6. It was decided in the 2nd D-8 Ministerial Meeting held in Malaysia in 2019 that Pakistan will host the 3rd D-8 Ministerial Meeting preceded by 4th D-8 Senior Officials Meeting.

Congo virus claims another life in Balochistan

QUETTA (APP): Congo virus has claimed yet another life in Balochistan, raising the death toll to ten in the current year, hospital sources told APP on Monday. Fazal Rehman, 27, a resident of the Eastern Bypass area of Quetta, was under treatment at a Faimah Jinnah Chest Hospital, Quetta where he succumbed to the disease. The death toll of the virus has risen to ten in the province during the current year, while as many as 25 patients have tested positive for Congo virus. The hospital sources while confirming the death toll said that Fazal Rehman was brought to hospital a few days back. He died while under treatment.