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No option for terrorists except to submit to writ of state: COAS

Gen Munir expresses concerns over sanctuaries given to terrorists in Afghanistan; Says Pakistan will spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir on Monday said the surge in terrorism in the recent past was a futile effort on the part of terrorists to get the talks re-initiated, however, there was no option for them except to submit to the writ of state before they were decimated, if they persisted on their wrong path. The Army Chief made these remarks during his visit to Peshawar. The COAS laid a floral wreath at Yaadgar-e-Shuhada at Fort Bala Hisar (Headquarters Fron-



tier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - North) and offered Fatiha, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS met tribal elders from Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as notables from all walks of life. "With the unflinching resolve of the Nation, Pakistan is successfully countering terrorism

to enable a stable and peaceful environment for socioeconomic development in the area," the COAS remarked.

The COAS reiterated, "Terrorism has no place in Pakistan and the involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorist incidents in Pakistan is detrimental to regional peace, stability and deviation from the Doha Peace Agreement by the interim Afghan Government." He also said, "Pakistan has concerns over sanctuaries available to banned outfits and liberty of action they enjoy on Afghan soil.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting awards to heads/representatives of Chinese companies operating in Pakistan under the CPEC.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with the Omani Chief of Staff of Sultan's Armed Forces, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi, who along with the members of his delegation called on him at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Pakistan, Oman for increasing bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Oman on Monday reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations in all areas of mutual interest.

Both sides also underscored the need to further increase cooperation in the areas of trade, defence and culture.

This was discussed at a meeting between President Dr. Arif Alvi and the Omani Chief of Staff of Sultan's Armed Forces, Vice Admiral Abdullah bin Khamis Al-Raisi, who along with the members of his delegation called on the president at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release.

Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan highly valued its ties with Oman as the two countries supported each other on various issues at international fora and were bound together by a common religion, history, and cultural heritage.

He informed the delega-

tion that Pakistan offered investment opportunities in various sectors of its economy, particularly agriculture.

He said that cooperation in the agriculture sector was highly important for the food security needs of the two countries.

He also suggested to start a ferry service between Gwadar and Muscat to bring the two countries further closer.

The meeting admired the leadership of Iran and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman over the normalization of relations, terming it a significant development for the prosperity of the region.

The two sides also stressed the need to increase high-level contacts to further cement bilateral ties. The president also briefed the delegation about the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

One window operation facility for Chinese investors to be fully implemented: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday assured the Chinese investors to further simplify the procedures for the companies working in Pakistan, especially under the umbrella of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), and implement them in letter and spirit.

He said under the CPEC, the two countries were entering into a new era of cooperation, therefore the government was further streamlining and simplifying the procedures to facilitate the Chinese companies and investors working in the country.

PM Shehbaz assured the Chinese investors that the difficult time for them was now over as "We are going to do this under one umbrella as a one window operation and this I mean in letter and spirit...not just words but true imple-

mentation". Addressing an award ceremony here, Shehbaz Sharif said that the Chinese government and companies had contributed towards Pakistan's industrial promotion in various areas and their contribution had not only led to creating job opportunities and industrial production but also further strengthened the bilateral economic ties.

Earlier the prime minister gave awards to top-performing Chinese companies working especially in projects under CPEC in Pakistan.

He said recently the two friendly countries had celebrated a decade of CPEC under Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI). He said China had so far invested a valuable \$30 billion under CPEC which had really transformed the economic landscape in Pakistan.

"Now we are entering into the second phase of CPEC in which multiple new areas are being incorporated including the green corridor, Information Technology, and Special Economic Zones.

He said the Pakistan government had launched a great initiative "Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC)", which would consist of all main stakeholders including the federal government, all provincial governments, and institutions, particularly Pakistan Army led by General Syed Asim Munir.

He said the Army Chief had personally contributed to this programme in a way that it had no parallel in the past as he was totally dedicated to promoting the cause of Pakistan and the people who had education and talent but no jobs.

Govt. withdraws PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023

PML-N on forefront to support journalists' struggle for media freedom during PTI regime: Marriyum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday withdrew the PEMRA Amendment Bill, 2023 under the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Senate, 2012 to further distil the legislation and address matters related to Parliamentary oversight, the Tribunal, Council of Complaints, and proposed amendments.

The information minister introduced the bill which was comprehensively discussed during the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, a Senate Secretariat press release said. The meeting was presided over by Senator Fawzia Arshad. Senior jour-

nalists from key electronic media organizations in Pakistan and representatives from various media associations attended the meeting to discuss the legislation. During the meeting, the information minister acknowledged the importance of the legislation and emphasized her positive intentions behind proposing it. After careful consideration and receiving 28 amendments from different stakeholders, the sponsor of the bill made the decision to withdraw it to further refine the legislation by incorporating appropriate amendments and allow the new government to take it up in the future.

This move was seen as an opportunity for more time, deliberation, and rec-

onciliation on the bill, given the valuable feedback provided by various stakeholders.

Meanwhile Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Monday said the entire leadership of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had been on the forefront to fully support the journalists' struggle for freedom of expression during the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime.

Talking to the media after the meeting of Senate's Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting in the Parliament House, the minister said she personally fought for the freedom of media along with journalists when the "media predator" was in power.

All political forces need to do positive, constructive politics: Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs and Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has said that all political parties of the country need to engage in positive and constructive politics to maintain hope in the youth.

Speaking on the floor of the National Assembly on Monday, he said the countrymen are fed up with the politics of hatred, enmity and we have to give hope to the youth of the country as it has to lead the country

to serve the masses.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari said all the political forces and institutions should either go for a new charter of democracy or sit together under the previous one to engage in a dialogue. He said the sole objective of dialogue should be framing the rules of game and code of conduct to do politics in the country. He said all the institutions also need to honour the domains of one another and refrain from trespassing the sphere of others.

Courts 80% responsible for what is going on in country: Syed Khurshid

SUKKUR (Online): Federal Minister Khurshid Ahmad Shah has said the courts are 80 percent responsible for what is happening in the country at present.

A court had awarded punishment to innocent Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, he added.

"We gave five names for care taker Prime Minister (PM) but they did not appear on TV. Rana Sana Ullah knows better than

me. Perhaps he may have known more than me care taker PM is coming who. I pray election are held till November", he said this while talking to media men here Monday.

We gave five names for care taker PM to Shehbaz Sharif through Ayyaz Sadiq and Khawaja Asif. What names were given by Rana Sana Ullah were not included in the decision of committee, he remarked.

Pak extends invitation to India for talks for resolution of Kashmir issue: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has once again extended invitation to India for talks for just resolution of Kashmir issue saying the atmosphere will have to be created for meaningful talks for development in the region and establishment of peace. "We are concerned over use of Afghan soil in attack in Zhob in Balochistan. All the terror-

ists killed in attack were Afghan citizens. Decision has been taken to send cricket team to participate in world cup in India. We have never mixed sports with politics. There are security concerns. Pakistani team will have to be provided fool proof security. We are concerned over targeting minorities in India.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs Bilawal Bhutto Zardari called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House

At least 7 including UC chairman killed in Turbat blast

TURBAT: A remote controlled explosion near a vehicle in Balgatar, Turbat killed seven people on Tuesday. The deceased included Union Council (UC) Chairman Ishaq Baloch.

Levies officials said that the explosion took place when the vehicle was passing through Balgatar.

The vehicle was completely destroyed in the explosion. Levies officials said that the explosion was caused by a remote controlled device.

Cop killed, two injured in terrorists' attack

PESHAWAR (APP): A police constable embraced martyrdom and two others were critically injured in a terrorists attack on a police mobile in Badha Bair area here. According to a police spokesman, the attackers in disguise of pedestrians targeted the police van on Afridi road from a close range with automatic weapons while it was patrolling in the area late Sunday night.

As a result of firing constable Yar Muhammad embraced martyrdom on the spot while a police sub-inspector and another constable received critical bullet injuries.

Kaira inaugurates Gilani's corner at National Monument Museum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira on Monday inaugurated Hurriyat Leader Shaheed Syed Ali Geelani's corner at National Monument Museum here to pay tribute to his struggle for independence from Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK).

Talking to media, the Adviser acknowledged Shaheed Syed Ali Geelani's contribution and services for the Kashmir cause and termed him a great Kashmiri leader.

He said the inauguration of the corner would provide an opportunity to highlight Geelani's struggle and achievements to ap-

prise the general public regarding the towering stature of the great Hurriyat leader.

He further said that Pakistani people and Kashmiris would never forget the Hurriyat leader and would remember him for the decades to come. He appreciated the efforts of all officials in establishing the corner at the National Monument Museum Islamabad.

The Adviser said that Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari were effectively highlighting the Kashmir issue at all available forums including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).



Adviser to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit-Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira inaugurating the corner at National Monument Museum Islamabad.



Federal Minister for Interior, Rana Sana Ullah Khan chairing NACTA's fourth board of Governors meeting in Islamabad.

Interior Minister terms NACTA true reflection of anti-terrorism efforts

ISLAMABAD (APP): Interior Minister Rana Sanaulah Khan on Monday expressed his satisfaction with National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA)'s complete functioning as an institution and termed it the reflection of the country's anti-terrorism efforts.

The Minister for Interior made these remarks while presiding over the fourth meeting of NACTA's Board of Governors which was participated by Secretary Interior, Syed Ali Murtaza, DG FIA Mohsin Butt and members of the Board of Governors, a news release said.

Khan said the reforms in the Authority were completed and it was performing its role in a befitting

manner. He directed that in view of the resurgence of terrorism and recent events, a clear and comprehensive policy should be formulated immediately.

"I hope that NACTA will spare no effort as a front-line organisation in counter-terrorism strides and all provinces and other relevant organizations will implement this strategy," the Interior Minister said.

He vowed that the government of Pakistan would exterminate terrorism and extremism once and for all. "Inshallah, permanent peace and economic prosperity will return to the motherland," he hoped.

The Interior Minister assured NACTA of his full support in that regard.

Decision in Toshakhana case challenged in SC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition has been filed in Supreme Court (SC) against the decision in Toshakhana case.

The petitioner advocate Saima Safdar of Lahore High Court has made prosecutor general Islamabad, government and Judge Humayun Dilawar respondents in her petition.

The petition has been filed under article 184 of the constitution.

The petitioner has prayed the court to nullify Toshakhana decision. It has been said in the petition that Toshakhana trial be started again. The right to fair trial was not given to chairman PTL Toshakhana case was decided in haste. The conviction be suspended till the decision of SC.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Into the unknown

With the Council of Common Interests unanimously approving the 2023 census on Saturday, the possibility that general elections will not be held on time has grown stronger.

There had been an air of ambiguity surrounding the electoral time frame, because until recently, state functionaries had been saying that the 2017 numbers would be used as several parties had issues with the latest results.

In fact, just a day before the CCI decision, the PPP had strongly opposed using the census issue to delay the polls. However, the prime minister appears to have pulled a rabbit out of his hat during the CCI meeting, resulting in the approval of the 2023 head account.

While the census results merit a separate discussion, a key question arises about the election time frame. With the process of dissolving the National Assembly to begin on Wednesday, the caretaker administration will have a constitutionally mandated period of 90 days in which to hold the polls.

Yet with the approval of the 2023 census, the ECP will have to conduct fresh delimitations; various quarters say this process could mean that polls will not be held until early 2024. This would clearly violate the caretaker set-up's legal mandate. Will the caretaker administration, therefore, operate in a constitutional limbo, just as the interim Punjab and KP governments have done ever since the elected legislatures in these provinces were dissolved in January? As things stand, that appears to be the case.

This paper has consistently argued that there should be no delay in holding the polls and that constitutional limits must be respected. However, it seems that political parties are barely concerned about constitutional imperatives, and are themselves willing to bend and break the rules when they want. Pakistan has long suffered because of a lack of adherence to constitutional norms, and this grim tradition is being upheld by the outgoing government. Provisional census results were ready by May, and if the government had started deliberations then and notified the results earlier, the polls could have been held on time once the legislature was dissolved.

But it appears that the rulers, as well as the establishment, were not keen on holding timely polls lest the PTI made a strong showing. Now that the deed is done, all efforts must be made to hold elections as soon as possible. The ECP needs to complete the delimitation process within a reasonable period, and from thereon no further obstacles should be placed in the way of holding elections. The only democratic solution to our protracted political and economic crises is for a freely elected civilian government with a fresh mandate to take the reins. The first step in that direction is the announcement of a clear time frame for conducting the polls.

Worsening trend



Huma Yusuf

A US Congressman last week introduced a resolution calling for the House to recognise Islam as a major religion in an effort to foster more respect for Muslims within America. That this was needed is a tragic reminder of the global increase in Islamophobia. As a Muslim-majority state, we may consider these external issues that are emotive, but with little direct local relevance. But the domestic ramifications of global Islamophobia deserve attention.

There is no doubt that Islamophobia is a shocking and worsening global trend. The recent events in Sweden and Denmark recall the UN special rapporteur on religious freedom's 2021 finding that Islamophobia had risen to epidemic proportions; for example, anti-Muslim incidents in the UK doubled between 2012 and 2021, and 30 per cent of Americans surveyed in 2017 viewed Muslims negatively. In 2021, the UN was moved to observe the first International Day to Combat Islamophobia.

The notion of Islamophobia as anti-Muslim sentiment in the West is also being broadened to include shifting attitudes in the Global South, with the term equally evoking incidents such as Israeli forces' raids on the Al Aqsa or the shuttered doors of mosques on the outskirts of Delhi following communal violence.

Pakistan's response is often multifaceted, balancing its position as the second-largest Muslim majority country in the world and the need to

manage hurt religious sentiment at home. This usually takes the form of diplomatic ire and the organisation of local protests. We saw this last month in response to anti-Muslim incidents in Sweden, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

There is, however, one element missing from this approach — a revision of Pakistan's counterterrorism strategy. This is important because there are inevitable links between

global Islamophobia and domestic militancy. Islamophobic incidents, and the emotion and outrage they provoke create a fertile recruitment ground for militant groups, and validate violent extremist responses, which are framed as proportionate in the face of growing onslaughts against Muslims.

Sadly, this is a vicious cycle that is all too familiar to Pakistanis. More than 680 people have been killed in 232 militant attacks this year already. The attacks recall the dark almost-decade from the mid-2000s onward in which over 66,000 Pakistanis are said to have lost their lives, with targets ranging from security forces to police, tribal leaders to politicians.

The uptick in militancy in Pakistan is largely driven by developments in Afghanistan under the Taliban regime, and the more conducive atmosphere for the outlawed TTP and IS-K. But militant narratives continue to rely on a demonisation of the West and other governments that fail to stem anti-Muslim sentiment and attacks. In these narratives, the democratically elected governments of Muslim countries are often portrayed as complicit, failing to do enough, or kowtowing to the West by continuing to work within secular frameworks (the OIC, for instance, is calling for the UN to condemn Quran

desecrations in Sweden and Denmark in the context of UN Human Rights Council resolutions regarding religious freedom and the hate speech limitation to freedom of expression). Not without precedent, this very logic was evoked by the IS-K to justify its recent attack in Bajaur against the JUI-F, with the former accusing the latter of hypocrisy for donning a religious identity yet cooperating with the government and military.

Pakistan's approach to the militant threat continues to be largely securitised, with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari recently threatening military action in Afghanistan if the Afghan Taliban failed to clamp down on cross-border terrorism. More holistic counterterrorism approaches that include the creation of educational and employment opportunities, inclusive local government and compelling counter-narratives — including those that acknowledge the hurt caused by global Islamophobia to stem radicalised and violent responses — remain in draft form. Incidentally, a broader counterterrorism approach focused on inclusion and prosperity would also stem the tide of asylum seekers on Western shores where immigration is a highly politicised and toxic issue. This would be the start of a virtuous cycle that would benefit everyone. Acknowledging the interconnectedness of global and regional trends will help develop more holistic approaches that tackle both global Islamophobia and domestic militancy. And there is cause for hope: the US this year reported the first decline in anti-Muslim incidents since it started tracking the data in 1995, likely due to the Biden administration's more inclusive messaging. There's still a long way to go but a concerted effort has to be the first step. — Courtesy Dawn

Rehashing GDPR



Samar Masood

Despite numerous attempts to introduce a robust data protection law that values the privacy of individuals and encourages growth, the proposed law on data protection fails to align the expectations of persons providing data and persons processing/controlling it.

There are many significant issues with the proposed law; for example, the requirement for data localisation, powers of the Commission for Data Protection, access to sensitive personal data to government on the pretext of national security, etc. But another problem is that it is modelled on the European data protection law, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation).

Pakistan is not the only country that has used GDPR as the blueprint for its data protection laws, but it may well be one among those that will be adversely affected by it especially because of the impact on startups. In the EU, for example, there is research showing how GDPR has severely affected small companies due to surging surveillance and compliance costs and limitations that reduce the scalability of data-driven businesses.

The proposed law also offers rights similar to GDPR — rights to access data, correction, withdrawal of consent, etc. The problem lies in not what rights have been granted but their extent and consequences for non-compliance. The process for compliance is long and burdensome, and makes transactions between data subjects and data controllers un-

necessarily expensive.

Take the example of the right to correction. The right empowers a person to whom the data relates (data subject) to require the data processor/controller to rectify personal data if it's inaccurate, incomplete, misleading, or outdated. The proposed law does not make any distinction for the type of activity for which the data is required, nor does it specify what is personal data. Though the definition provides for the data to be able to identify a person, it is silent on how much data is needed for identifying the data subject or what is needed for it to meet the threshold to be categorised as personal data. Nor does it answer the question of what is complete data or misleading data. If you see an advertisement for chocolates based on your search from the previous night and you begin a diet the next morning, is it incomplete or misleading data in so far that it does not show your preference reflected through your choices made on a search engine? These questions, though basic, make the cracks in the law obvious.

Another example is processing the data of children. The law requires that data controller/processor obtain the permission of the parent/authorised guardian of any person below the age of 18. The debate about age limit aside, how would data controllers be expected to reach out to parents or confirm guardianship? In what cases would the costs outweigh the benefit of paternalistic surveillance? For instance, would it be feasible in the case of a 17-year-old signing up on an Instagram account?

These are only some issues with the structure of the law. The primary issue is that it fails to keep up with developments in the sector. The law should have regulated the mechanism for obtaining con-

sent, given how the concept has evolved in tech space due to the use of dark patterns. Instead, it continues with archaic ways of taking consent and allows data subjects to opt out of rights provided their consent is "free, specific, informed, and unambiguous". This was always the case under the laws of contract and the proposed law has not added anything new nor has it clarified how consent is to be obtained and considered "informed". Would a lengthy document of legalese text meet the requirement or would a short concise statement every step of the way be sufficient?

Dark patterns are user interfaces that manipulate users into selecting options that the data processor may want them to take, instead of what they would actually want by using heuristics (rule of thumb) or biases of individuals. The example of a dark pattern could be taking consent to track a person by repeatedly showing the same screen to tire a person into giving consent or by pre-selecting the option for a user that the controller would want them to take.

Many such practices have been seen as tricks to manipulate the way consent is obtained, and while this consent may satisfy the provisions of the law, it creates a divergence between actual preferences and the manipulated preferences of users, and initiate a cycle where the more data the controllers collect, the more exploitative they become. The ethical implications of data exploitation aside, these implications of data protection should also be considered before a proposal, which does not address the concerns of data collection, storage, processing, etc, by companies and imposes a huge cost for needless compliances, becomes an act of parliament. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Amin launches Pakistan's first ever communication application "Beep Pakistan"

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque on Monday launched Pakistan's first ever communication application "Beep Pakistan".

The Federal Minister for IT inaugurated the new Web version of E-office.

National Information Technology Board (NITB) prepared the Beep Pakistan application to optimize communication and

operational efficiency within the government organisations.

Addressing the ceremony, Syed Amin Ul Haque said that the Beep Pakistan application comprises features including document sharing, secured messaging, quick audio, video and conference calls, adding that its data will be securely hosted in Pakistan.

He said that initially after one month test run it

will be open for use for all government officers and officials. On successful use at government level, the application will also be open for the masses after one year, he added.

He said that Beep Pakistan application is aimed at to secure and efficient digital communication among the government officers and the employees.

Syed Amin Ul Haque said this application

strives to revolutionize the way government employees communicate and enhance their productivity through the adoption of modern and efficient e-governance practices. He delighted to announce that the ministry is taking another stride towards more efficient and sustainable government.

The Federal Minister for IT also lauded the efforts of National Information Technology.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT).



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Syed Amin Ul Haque launching Pakistan's First Communication APP "beep".

PCGA to provide assistance to TCP for cotton procurement

MULTAN (APP): Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) will provide all possible support to the Trading Corporation of Pakistan (TCP) regarding the procurement of cotton.

PCGA Chairman Chaudhary Waheed Arshad expressed these views during a meeting held at PCGA House, Multan in which members of TCP, Agriculture department, Punjab and Central Executive Committee of PCGA participated. General Manager, the

regional office of TCP Lahore, Israr Ahmed Sodhar told the participants that TCP has to buy one million bales of cotton as per the decision of the government of Pakistan.

He said that they came to pay visits to various ginning factories to assess possible difficulties during procurement of cotton under the directions of chairman TCP.

He said that they will also need the support of PCGA in this regard.

PSX loses 199 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 199.47 points, a negative change of 0.41 per cent, closing at 48,386.25 3 points against 48,585.72 points the previous trading day. A total of 381,855,144 shares were traded during the day as compared to 331,132,473 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs14,528 billion against Rs12,500 billion on the last trading day. As many as 354 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 104 of them recorded gains and 225 sustained losses.

Punjab govt delegation led by CM visits Agro Cluster and Textile Unit

LAHORE (APP): A high-level delegation led by Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Monday visited Agro Cluster and Cotton Textile Unit in Bukhara, Uzbekistan.

The delegation was briefed on cotton production, processing and value added textiles in Bukhara Agro Cluster, said a handout issued here.

The delegation observed the process of garments preparation and inspected printing, dyeing,

Secretary agriculture says: Farmers following IPM model getting good cotton production

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel said on Monday that farmers who were following Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology were getting significantly good production results from their cotton crop. Presiding over a meeting at agriculture secretariat Multan, he ordered officials to compile

pressing and other sections at the Agro Cluster.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the high yielding cotton plants. He said that Punjab and Uzbekistan had immense opportunities for agricultural technology exchange and investment, and this visit was of great importance for the agro-economy of Pakistan. He said that this visit had paved the way for stronger agricultural relations between the two countries.

South Africa's HC for strengthening bilateral trade relations

LAHORE (APP): In a bid to foster stronger economic ties between Pakistan and South Africa, High Commissioner Mthuzuzeli Madikiza made his third visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Monday.

During his address to the business community, Madikiza underscored the need for collaborative efforts to address challenges faced by the business community and enhance trade cooperation.

LCCI President Kashif Anwar, Honorary Consul General of South Africa Syed Shahid Ali, LCCI Senior Vice President Zafar Mahmood Chaudhry

and Executive Committee members were also present.

Madikiza highlighted the importance of understanding the unique opportunities and complexities that Africa presents for trade and investment. He commended the presence of an Africa Desk at the LCCI and acknowledged the commendable initiative of the government of Pakistan, "Look Africa", aimed at bolstering economic relations with the continent. Madikiza said the two countries suffered during the Covid-19 pandemic and stressed the need for diversification and expansion of trade beyond coal, urging

stakeholders to analyze the progress made and work towards increasing trade volumes. In his address, LCCI President Kashif Anwar expressed optimism that the meeting would pave the way for stronger bilateral economic relations. He emphasized the significance of South Africa in the African continent, with its impressive GDP of over \$400 billion and diverse economy, and highlighted the mutual benefits that closer cooperation could bring. He said participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and exchange of trade delegations play a fundamental role in boosting two-way trade.

Gold rates decrease by Rs 1,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,100 and was sold at Rs.221,700 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 222,800 on the previous day. The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs.943 to Rs.190,072 from Rs.191,016 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 Karat gold declined to Rs.174,233 from Rs.174,076.

1st ASEAN-Pakistan Business Opportunity Conference ends

LAHORE (APP): The historic "ASEAN-Pakistan Business Opportunities Conference 2023" came to a successful close here Monday, marking a significant step towards strengthening economic ties between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Pakistan.

The event featured the commencement of the visit by a 50-member

delegation from various ASEAN countries. The conference was the starting point for a series of impactful engagements aimed at enhancing trade collaboration and fostering mutual growth between the participating nations. With a record-breaking turnout, this event witnessed the largest-ever delegation from ASEAN to grace Pakistan's business landscape.

Inter-religious moot stresses global law to ensure respect for all religions

LAHORE (APP): An "Inter-religious Harmony Conference" was held here on Monday under the aegis of the Pakistan Ulema Council and Saint Anthony Catholic Church.

Pakistan Ulema Council Chairman and President International Interfaith Harmony Council Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmoud Ashrafi, Archshoop Dr. Sebastian Shaw, Reverend Emmanuel Sardar Khokhar, Pir Allama Zubair Abid, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Siddiqui, Maulana Muhammad Asim Makhdoom and other scholars and priests said that the Constitution of Pakistan is a complete

protector of the rights of minorities in the country, adding that Muslims and non-Muslims living in Pakistan are equal citizens." The Christian community has immensely served Pakistan," they added.

The religious leadership also condemned terrorism incidents in Bajaur, Khyber Masjid, Quetta, and at other places, stating that legislation should be made at the world level to ensure respect for the holy things of all heavenly religions and also announced supporting and endorsing the resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Councils of the

Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations Organisation.

The religious leadership also stated that the Muslim and Christian leaders would celebrate the Independence Day of Pakistan in a befitting manner.

The religious leadership said, "We established Pakistan and make its a prosperous and progressive country." The religious leadership also stated that the Constitution of Pakistan provides equal rights to the followers of all religions. "No enemy of the country will be allowed to disturb peace in the country."



LAHORE: A delegation of Chinese Consulate led by the Chinese Consul General, Zhao Shiren in a group photo with Governor of Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Punjab Governor says: Pakistan-China ties deep roots and based on mutual respect, trust and love

LAHORE (Online): A delegation of Chinese Consulate led by the Chinese Consul General, Zhao Shiren met the Governor of Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at the Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest, promotion of bilateral relations, especially ongoing development in CPEC were discussed. During the meeting, the Chinese Consul General also invited the Governor of Punjab to

the National Day of the People's Republic of China in October. Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan-China relations have deep roots and are based on mutual respect, trust and love. He said that people to people contact between Pakistan and China will be strengthened. Governor Punjab said that Pakistan values China's cooperation in education, health, energy, infrastructure and other sectors.

Meeting held to eradicate ghost schools in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The high-level first meeting of the Liaison Committee of the Education Department was held under the chairmanship of the Advisor to the Caretaker Chief Minister on Primary and Secondary Education Rehmat Salam Khattak to eradicate ghost schools in the province.

The meeting was also attended by Abdul Akram Additional Secretary (General), Sheikh Fakhar Alam Communication Specialist, Education Department Chairmen of all boards, Tanzila Sabahat MD Private School Regulatory Authority, and Director of Education.

Funeral prayers offered for 13 killed in train accident

TANDOADAM (APP): The funeral prayers of 13 people who died in a deadly train accident near Nawabshah were offered here on Monday and later buried in their native graveyards. According to a report, 13 people including five women of Tando Adam were also killed in a fatal train accident that occurred on Sunday. Funeral prayers were attended by the Chairman Municipal Committee Ghulam Murtaza Junejo, Vice Chairman Malak Zulfqar Ali, Lala Ayoub, Abdul Rehman Ansari.

Iranian Minister for increase in tourists' between Iran & Pak

LAHORE (Online): The Minister for Tourism, Archeology and Handicrafts of the Islamic Republic of Iran Syed Ezzatollah Zarghami, who is currently visiting Lahore, has emphasized that the number of tourists between Pakistan and Iran should increase as both are neighboring Muslim countries. "At least one million Pakistani and two lac Iranian tourists should visit each other's countries", he said.

Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was represented by Minister Specialized Healthcare and Social Welfare Prof Dr Akram Javed in the ceremony. Punjab Tourism Secretary Asif Bilal Lodhi, Iran Tourism Department Deputy Director General Mohammadi Qasmi, Iranian Consul General Lahore Mehran Mohdfar, Tourism Department officials, tour operators and others also participated.

Iranian Minister for Tourism Syed Ezzatollah Zarghami said that the purpose of organizing the Pakistan-Iran Tourism Forum is to increase facilities for tourists. He said that last year 93 lac 11 thousand foreign tourists visited Iran.



LAHORE: Advocate members of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration against arrested former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, outside Supreme Court Registry.

Dr Jamal inaugurates case response anti polio campaign

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Healthcare and Population Welfare, Punjab Dr Jamal Nasir on Monday said that the presence of polio virus in the environmental samples of Tehsil Taxila was alarming and a seven-day special anti-polio campaign had been launched in the high-risk areas of the district to eradicate this deadly virus. He said this while inaugurating a case response anti-polio campaign at Rural

Health Center Khayaban e Sirsryed, by administering drops to a child under five years of age. The minister said the campaign will continue till August 13 to cover over 669,412 children in five tehsils of Rawalpindi, including Rawalpindi Cantonment, city, Taxila, Gujjar Khan and Potohar town. Dr Jamal informed that 2835 teams, including 674 area incharges, 269 fixed points and 189 Union council medical officers were participating in the drive.



KARACHI: Many passengers are stuck at Cantt Station because of the derailed Hazara Express near Nawabshah.

Abbassi inaugurates Rs 292 mln project to revamp KKH

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, Murtaza Javed Abbasi Monday inaugurated a transformative project valued at Rs 292 million, the initiative focuses on the maintenance and comprehensive reconstruction of Karakoram Highway (KKH) from Haripur to Abbottabad city.

Murtaza Javed Abbasi expressed heartfelt appreciation towards Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Federal Minister for Communications for their substantial contributions.

Shedding light on the financial allocations, Abbasi revealed that Rs 55.4 million has been dedicated to the maintenance and reconstruction of (KKH), spanning from Haripur to Abbottabad Interchange.

Senate approves annual budget of Haripur, Swat universities

PESHAWAR (APP): The caretaker minister for Law and Higher Education Justice @ Irshad Qaiser on Monday presided over two separate senate meetings to review and approve annual budgets for the University of Haripur and the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Swat. In both meetings, the members of the Senate of the respective universities attended. The senate meeting unanimously approved the annual budget 2023-24 for the University of Haripur. Provincial Minister of Higher Education Justice @ Irshad Qaiser appreciated the surplus budget and performance of the University of Haripur. He emphasized that the university should take more steps to increase its income so that it becomes financially stable. The Senate meeting was told that steps are being taken to establish more departments at the university in the future. Apart from this, the Senate meeting of the Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Swat, was held.

CM meets Governor Bukhara during Uzbekistan visit

LAHORE (APP): Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi had a fruitful meeting with the Governor Bukhara Mr Botir Zaripov in Uzbekistan on Monday, during which a consensus was reached on the proposal to declare Bukhara and Multan as sister cities.

The meeting involved an exchange of ideas regarding declaring both Multan and Bukhara as sister cities, and consensus was also reached on taking necessary steps in this regard, said a handout issued here. While conversing with Governor Botir Zaripov, the CM said, "Sufism is our shared

heritage and linking Multan and Bukhara as sister cities would further promote Sufism and religious culture." Pakistan and Uzbekistan were bound by historical, religious, and cultural ties; he added and mentioned that Uzbekistan had strengthened its economy through revolutionary reforms in the agricultural sector. Pakistan, especially Punjab, would benefit from Uzbekistan's agricultural initiatives, he expressed. He emphasized utilizing Uzbekistan's experiences in developing improved seeds for cotton and wheat cultivation.

International News

Russia blasts Saudi Arabia talks on ending war in Ukraine after Moscow gets no invitation to attend

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday chided efforts by international officials meeting in Saudi Arabia to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Ukraine, saying the talks don't have "the slightest added value" because Moscow — unlike Kyiv — wasn't invited.

Senior officials from around 40 countries gathered Sunday in Jeddah for a two-day meeting that aims to agree on key principles about how to end the conflict that has raged for more than 17 months.

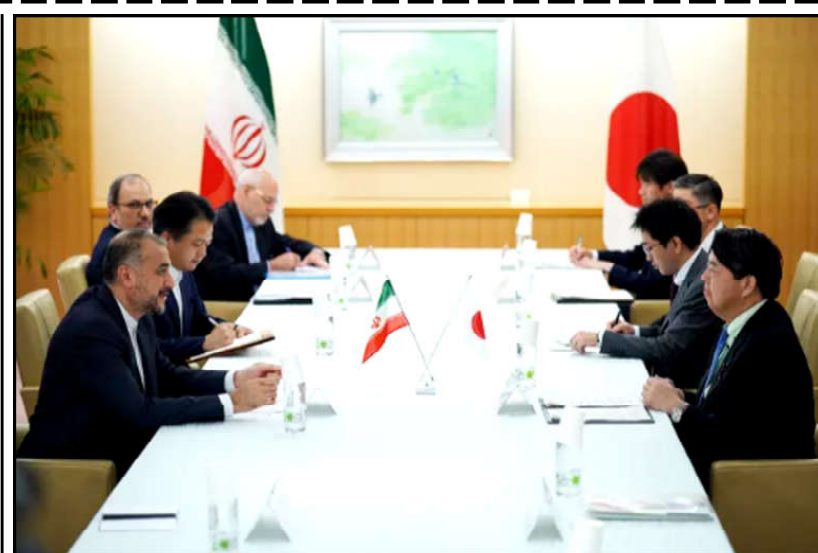
But without Russia's participation and without taking into account

Moscow's interests, the meeting was pointless, a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said. It repeated previous assurances that Russia is open to a diplomatic solution on its terms that ends the war and is ready to respond to serious proposals.

But Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy, ruled out Moscow's previous demands that would give Russia time to dig in deeper in the parts of Ukraine it has occupied. He said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Russian forces must fully withdraw from the occupied areas and there would be no Kyiv compromise on that.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Security Service announced Monday it had detained an alleged Russian informant who gathered intelligence about Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's trip to the southern Mykolaiv region last month.

It claimed the woman "was collecting data for an airstrike during Zelenskyy's visit." The woman attempted to establish Zelenskyy's route, times and visits in the region. She was detained when she tried to pass the information to the Russians, the statement said, without providing evidence.



Japanese Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi and Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian speak during their meeting in Tokyo.

Japan raises concerns over Iran's nuclear enrichment and drone supplies to Russia for Ukraine war

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: Japan expressed concern on Monday over Iran's advancing uranium enrichment program and the Middle East country's suspected supplying of combat drones to Moscow for Russia's war on Ukraine.

Japan's Foreign Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi raised the two issues during talks with his Iranian counterpart, Hossein Amirabdollahian, the foreign ministry in Tokyo said. A statement from the ministry said Hayashi

appealed for Iran to act constructively in the matter but did not elaborate.

Iranian drones have been a key element of Russia's continued war on Ukraine. Tehran has offered conflicting accounts about the drones — first denying Iran has supplied them to Russia and later claiming the unmanned aircraft were only sold before the Russian invasion.

However, the number of Iranian-made drones used in the conflict shows a steady supply of the bomb-carrying

weapons. In June, the White House said Iran was providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant east of Moscow as the Kremlin looks to lock in a consistent stream of weapons. As U.S. ally and a member of the Group of Seven advanced nations, Japan has joined sanctions against Moscow while providing Ukraine with humanitarian support and non-lethal defense equipment, largely because of fear that Russia's invasion could embolden an already assertive China in Asia.

China tells Philippines to remove grounded warship in South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China told the Philippines on Monday to remove its grounded warship from the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea after blocking two Manila supply ships with water cannons over the weekend as both sides asserted their claims of the area.

The Philippines accused the Chinese coast guard of blocking and water-cannoning a Philippine military supply ship on what it said was a routine troop rotation and resupply mission on Saturday for the Philippine warship, a rusty World War Two-era American ship that a hand-

ful of troops live aboard. China said it had earlier told Manila not to send ships to the Second Thomas Shoal and not to send "construction materials used for large-scale repair and reinforcement" to the warship after it learned of this recent supply plan, the Chinese coast guard said in a statement on Monday.

China also urged the Philippines to restore the Second Thomas Shoal and said it had allowed transport of daily necessities including food to the grounded ship, according to the Chinese statement, adding that it had used the water cannon to avoid collision from a direct interception.

Tens of thousands of young scouts to evacuate world jamboree in S. Korea as storm Khanun looms

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: South Korea will evacuate tens of thousands of scouts by bus from a coastal jamboree site as Tropical Storm Khanun looms, officials said Monday. More than 1,000 vehicles will be used starting Tuesday morning to move 36,000 scouts — mostly teenagers — from the World Scout Jamboree in the southwestern county of Buan, according to Kim Sung-ho, a vice minister at South

Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

Most of the scouts, who come from 158 countries, will be accommodated at venues in the capital city, Seoul, and the nearby metropolitan area, he said. Officials were trying to secure spaces at government training centers and education facilities as well as hotels. Kim said it would take six hours or more to evacuate the scouts from the campsite.

3 killed when firefighting helicopters collide in Southern California, officials say

Monitoring Desk
CABAZON: Two firefighting helicopters collided while responding to a blaze in Southern California, sending one to the ground in a crash that killed all three people on board. "Unfortunately, the second helicopter crashed and tragically all three members perished, which included one Cal Fire Division chief.

16 dead, dozens missing in shipwrecks off Tunisia, Western Sahara

Monitoring Desk
TUNISIA: Sixteen migrants have died in shipwrecks off the coasts of Tunisia and Western Sahara, officials said on Monday, as North Africa faces a spike in Europe-bound sea crossings.

Much of the North African coast has become a major gateway for irregular migrants and asylum seekers primarily from other parts of the continent, attempting perilous voyages in often

rickety boats in the hopes of a better life.

At least 11 migrants died in a shipwreck off the coast of Tunisia's second city of Sfax, said local court spokesman Faouzi Masmoudi, revising an earlier toll of four fatalities.

Another 44 are missing while two others were rescued from the boat that had 57 people on board, all of them from sub-Saharan African countries, Masmoudi added.

Shooting kills 2 men and a woman & wounds 2 others in Washington, DC, police chief says

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A shooting on a street in the nation's capital left three people dead and two others hospitalized Saturday night, police said. Officers responded to the sounds of gunshots around 8 p.m. in the 1600 block of Good Hope Road Southeast and found five victims who had been shot. Two men and a woman were pronounced dead at the scene and two men were transported to area hospitals.

Iran building collapse death toll rises to five; 11 injured, more feared trapped

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: At least five people succumbed to traumatic injuries caused by falling rubble and debris, while 11 others were hospitalized after several buildings collapsed in Iran's capital on Monday, according to local media. Iran's ISNA news agency reported that two policemen were also among the victims as they were accompanying fellow officers in securing the planned demolition on Sunday of "unauthorised buildings" in Tehran's southwest.

Jalal Maleki, a spokesperson for Tehran's fire department, told local

media that the overall "toll from the collapse" has reached five while, according to ISNA, rescue operations were underway to find others who may be trapped under the rubble.

According to AFP, authorities had begun the demolition of one building when five others collapsed. Photographs from the scene issued by Tasnim showed rescuers and heavy equipment working below a pile of debris and twisted metal several metres (yards) high, with other unfinished and partially damaged buildings around them.



British scout members leave the World Scout Jamboree campsite in Buan, South Korea.

Peace, stability, persistent policies mandatory for strong economy: Ahsan Iqbal

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that peace, stability and persistent policies were mandatory for a strong economy. Addressing a ceremony here, he said, "We should not make any compromise on these three things and continue our journey towards economic restoration for the next five to ten years to come out of difficulties permanently".

He said that the country paid a heavy price of former premier Nawaz Sharif's disqualification as it shook the confidence of our friends and investors in our system. He said that no country could succeed

without foreign investment in present times. He said, "We are a nation of 240 million people whereas the foreign investment is only 1.5 billion dollars." The minister questioned why the foreign investment did not come to Pakistan, and said that every investor looked for peace, stability, persistent policies and the judicial system which would give protection to him. While questioning decisions like disqualification of Nawaz Sharif, he said, "We need to reform our judicial system as it is the most necessary to strengthen our economy." To a question, he said that the nation was aware of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) performance. He

said that the country was facing a number of problems, when the PML-N assumed power in 2013, but it overcame the problems and put the country on development track. However, after it, an experiment was made and a man was put into power, who did not have any experience of running the government, and it led to devastation of the economy, he added.

He said, "When the coalition government took power almost 14-months back, we made hard decisions to put the economy back on track and accepted conditions set by the International Monetary Fund in the light of the agreement made by the previous PTI government."



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi exchanges views with Chief of Staff Sultan's Armed Forces (COSSAF) Oman, Vice Admiral Abdullah Bin Khamis Al Raisi during meeting held at Naval Headquarters.

BISP marks remarkable progress in alleviating poverty: Shazia

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Mari Monday said that BISP has marked remarkable progress in alleviating poverty through achieving key milestones during the present government's tenure.

In a statement issued here, the minister highlighted that Benazir Kafaalat programme, which provides essential financial support to deserving families, witnessed an impressive increase in coverage from 7.6 million to nine million families and this expansion reflects the programme's commitment to inclusivity and reaching

those most in need. In a significant boost to the welfare of beneficiary families, the cash transfer stipend amount was increased by 25 percent, raising it from Rs 7000 to Rs 8750 per quarter per family. This increase has provided much-needed relief and support to vulnerable households.

The government's commitment to social welfare was evident as the budgetary allocation for BISP was significantly increased from Rs 235 billion in FY 2021-22 to Rs 404.2 billion in FY 2022-23, representing a remarkable 72% increase.

This financial commitment underscores the government's dedication to uplifting the less privileged.

She said BISP demonstrated exemplary financial management by disbursing Rs 404.2 billion during the last year, with a near-perfect utilization rate of 99.99%. This seamless disbursement mechanism ensured timely financial assistance to beneficiaries.

A transformative step towards improving data accuracy and efficiency, the Dynamic Registry was launched for real-time socio-economic data updates. The transition from a static registry to a dynamic one with real-time updates ensured the most current information on beneficiaries. Notably, 2.8 million households were re-surveyed in the last five months alone.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf in a group photo with participants of the reception to pay tribute to "The Women Parliamentarians in Strengthening Democracy" at National Press Club.

Women empowerment: key to socio-economic stability says Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf on Monday said that imagining development without women inclusion in every segment of society is impossible.

He expressed these views while addressing "The Women Parliamentarians in Strengthening Democracy" at National Press Club organized by Women Parliamentary Caucus.

Paying tribute to contribution of women Parliamentarians, he said that our women have potential to change the fate of country. He expressed gratitude that Shaheed Mohtrama Benazir Bhutto was his political mentor. He also said that the role of media

is crucial to further the cause of democracy in Pakistan. Secretary WPC Shahida Rehmani appreciated the cooperation extended by Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf for proactive WPC. She said that the prominent achievements of WPC in such a short time includes: prioritizing gender budgeting and furthering women friendly legislation.

Mehnaz Akbar Aziz Convener 1st Parliamentary Caucus on Child Rights also briefed the participants regarding achievements of PCR.

Afzal Butt President PFUJ said that PFUJ has given equal status to women journalist and women media representatives.

Omani Military Chief lauds PAF's exceptional professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces of Oman, Vice Admiral Abdullah Bin Khamis-Al-Raisi called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu at Air Headquarters on Monday and lauded the exceptional professionalism of the PAF personnel. During the meeting, key areas of mutual interest, geo-political environment and regional developments were discussed, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

The Chief of the Air Staff briefed the visiting dignitary as regards to the overall framework of PAF's modernisation drive through smart procurements, induction of niche technologies and revamping of training in line with contemporary trends. The Air Chief reiterated his sound determination to further elevate the existing ties in areas of military cooperation and training, especially in the domains of cyber, electronic warfare, space and computing.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of the Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council.

Apex Committee of SIFC approves projects for attracting investments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The third meeting of the Apex Committee of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was held here on Monday to continue the positive momentum to attract investment in various sectors of economy.

The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and attended by Chief of Army Staff, chief ministers, federal and provincial ministers, and high-level government officials.

The prime minister appreciated the expeditious operationalization of SIFC in a short span and its efficient functioning through a collaborative approach.

The Apex Committee appreciated the global impact of the ongoing outreach strategy

through seminars and project inaugurations; which would be augmented by the SIFC's website, being launched shortly.

It gave final approval of the projects, presented by the ministries, for attracting investments from friendly countries, under the umbrella of SIFC, in key sectors of agriculture, livestock, mining, minerals, information technology and energy.

The Apex Committee showed all-out support for successful conduct of the upcoming visit of a high-level delegation from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan through the SIFC platform. The prime minister directed to make this inaugural visit a momentous event.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif presenting a cheque of 1 million rupees to Jamshed Ali in recognition of his exceptional performance by securing the first position in Matriculation Examination 2023 in Gujranwala Board.

PM awards Rs 1m to SSC topper; directs govt to fund his edu. till masters degree

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Monday announced a Rs 1 million reward for a student who topped the Secondary School Examination of Gujranwala Board, besides announcing a monthly stipend of Rs 30,000.

The prime minister made the announcement at Jamshed Ali, the SSC topper met the prime minister along with his mother, teacher Waheed Ashraf and Chairman of the Gujranwala Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education Naveed Haider Sherazi.

Minister for Federal Education and Training Rana Tanveer Hussain also attended the meeting.

The prime minister appreciated the student for his excellent performance and announced Rs 1 million reward for his encouragement. The prime minister instructed that the government should bear all of the educational expenditures of Jamshed Ali till his master's degree.

He sought a commitment from the student to keep up showing excellence in his educational career ahead. "The bright students like you are the pride of the nation. The credit for your success goes to the hard work of your parents as well as teachers. You are also a role model for other students of the country," the prime minister remarked.

"As you sow, so shall you reap" fits to Imran Niazi: Tarrar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Interior Attaullah Tarrar on Monday said "As you sow, so shall you reap" fits to Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan Niazi. Addressing a press conference, he said the legal team of Imran Khan Niazi submitted an application in the Islamabad High Court (IHC) for facilities in the jail for PTI chief contrary to his toll claim to be a revolutionary leader.

The prison department which comes under the domain of the Punjab government used to be managed by Prime Minister House during Niazi's tenure, said Tarrar adding that Attock prison is not an in-laws house of Imran Khan Niazi where he is demanding all facilities.

He said, all political leaders faced troubles during imprisonment but not like Imran Khan Niazi who

PIMS new emergency block to be expanded

ISLAMABAD (APP): Executive Director Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences (PIMS) has decided to expand the new emergency block project of the hospital with the addition of one more floor to ensure the provision of the best emergency services to citizens.

According to ED PIMS spokesperson Dr Mubashir Mushtaq Dahi, the decision was made on the direction of the Planning Commission of Pakistan as with this new plan further 75 beds will be added to the project.

76 percent of children exposed to extreme high temperatures in South Asia: UNICEF

ISLAMABAD (APP): With heat and high humidity in South Asia, the United Nations International Fund for Children (UNICEF) urged the local authorities, frontline health workers and caregivers to help vulnerable children and families. South Asia has the highest percentage of children exposed to extreme high temperatures, compared to all other regions, according to a UNICEF analysis. UNICEF estimates that 76 percent of children under 18 in South Asia - 460 million - are exposed to extreme high temperatures where 83 or more days in a year exceed 35°C. This means that 3 in 4 children in South Asia are already exposed to extreme high temperature compared to only 1 in 3 children (32 percent) globally. The analysis is of 2020 data, the latest available.

In addition, the data also show that 28 percent of children across South

Asia are exposed to 4.5 or more heatwaves per year, compared to 24 percent globally. July was the hottest month ever recorded globally, raising further concerns about a future where children, including those living in South Asia, are expected to face more frequent and severe heatwaves, largely due to climate change.

"With the world at global boiling, the data clearly show that the lives and well-being of millions of children across South Asia are increasingly threatened by heat waves and high temperatures. Countries in the region are not the hottest in the world right now but the heat here brings life-threatening risks for millions of vulnerable children," said Sanjay Wijesekera, UNICEF Regional Director for South Asia. "We are particularly concerned about babies, toddlers, malnourished children and pregnant women as they are most vulnerable to heat strokes and other serious effects." According to UNICEF's 2021 Children's Climate Risk Index (CCRI), children in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives, and Pakistan are at 'extremely high risk' of the impacts of climate change.

In parts of Pakistan's southern Sindh province, including Jacobabad, the world's hottest city in 2022, temperatures were in their 40's in June, exposing 1.8 million people to severe short- and long-term health risks. The scorching heat came less than one year after the devastating floods which left most parts of southern Sindh underwater in August 2022. More than 800,000 children in flood-affected areas were at risk of severe heat stress in June 2023. Even in the rainy season, the heat can exacerbate the situation for children. Since children cannot adapt quickly to temperature changes.

Senate unanimously declares August 5, 2019 a 'Black Day' in solidarity with Kashmiri people

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate on Monday passed a unanimous resolution, tending August 5, 2019, as a 'Black Day' and expressing unwavering support for the innocent people of Kashmir residing on the other side of the line of control.

The resolution was presented by Senator Kamran Murtaza of Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-Fazl.

Recalling the historic moment, the Senate highlighted the abrogation of Articles 35-A and 370 of the Indian Constitution by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government on August 5, 2019. The move effectively stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomy and led to the division of the state into two Union territories. The Senate firmly rejected India's actions, deeming them illegal and in direct violation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions.

The Senate expressed its deep concern over the blatant violation of human rights by the Indian government and the escalation of human rights violations by

Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). These actions were deemed to infringe upon the civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of the Kashmiri people.

Reaffirming the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, the Senate emphasized the importance of self-determination for all peoples. It underscored the significance of several unimplemented UNSC Resolutions on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, asserting that the final resolution of the state's status should be determined by the will of the people.

The Senate strongly condemned state-sponsored terrorism and crimes against humanity perpetrated by Indian occupation forces in IIOJK. It acknowledged the efforts of international human rights organizations and the media, as well as international parliamentary fora, particularly the European Parliament, for their steadfast concerns regarding the severe human rights violations in the IIOJK.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb along with Secretary of Information and Broadcasting & Managing Director PTV Sohail Ali Khan handing over Health Card to Senior Actor Shahzad Raza at Icon Awards 2023 ceremony.

ICCI asks CDA to include Bara Kahu in I'abad municipal limits

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari on Monday said the Capital Development Authority should include Bara Kahu in Islamabad's Municipality as it had become one of the largest commercial centers of the Federal Capital.

Due to lack of attention, the area traders were facing multiple problems, and as a CDA board member, he would play a role to resolve the same, he was while talking a delegation of Bara Kahu Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani, led by its President Raja Zahid Dhaniyal, visited the ICCI. He said he would pursue the CDA chairman to visit the Bara Kahu market for a first hand account of the problems being faced by the traders and then take necessary steps for their resolution.

He assured the delegation that the ICCI would

fully cooperate with their Association in its efforts for the betterment of Bara Kahu traders.

Markazi Anjuman-e-Tajirani, Bara Kahu, President Raja Zahid Dhaniyal, in his remarks, said the problems of Bara Kahu area were not promptly resolved as it was considered a rural area. The area should be included in the municipal limits of Islamabad for its proper development, he added. He said the condition of Simli Dam Road had deteriorated. Likewise, road under the newly opened bypass was also in dilapidated condition, which needed urgent repair and carpeting. He said there were serious sewage problems in Bara Kahu while the drainage system was also not functioning properly. The sanitation arrangements in Bara Kahu were almost non-existent, while the Bara Kahu market also needed a filtration plant and public toilets.

IESCO launches construction of country's 1st AMI laboratory

ISLAMABAD (APP): Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) started construction of the country's 1st state-of-the-art Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI-M & T) Laboratory here Monday at Pirwadhai grid station.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony, IESCO Chairman Board of Directors Engineer Qamarul-Islam Raja said that IESCO has always given special attention to the customers with the best ser-

vices along with strong infrastructure and new technology. With the implementation of AMI project, elimination of electricity theft, correct meter reading, and elimination of overloading on the system will definitely be possible.

He said he would personally supervise the timely completion of the project and in this regard, the IESCO management would have the full cooperation of the Board of Directors.



ISLAMABAD: Senator Mrs. Rubina Khalid, Convener of the Sub-Committee of the Senate Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination, is chairing a meeting of the sub-committee at Parliament House.