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Pays tribute to sacrifices of brave and resilient tribal 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 Fort Bala Hisar (Headquarters Frontier 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 sanc-

tuaries available to banned outfits and liberty of action they enjoy on Afghan soil. Pakistan will spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks and protect its citizens at all costs."

During an interactive session, the COAS paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of brave and resilient tribals of Pakistan and appreciated their indomitable resolve for standing shoulder to shoulder with the Security Forces in defeating the menace of terrorism.

Tribal elders assured that the banned Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and its ideology would never be acceptable to any tribe and they would continue to stand with the state during the thick and thin.



Army Chief General Asim Munir during his interactive session with tribal elders from tribal Merged Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as notables from all walks of life in his visit to Peshawar

CM Sindh inaugurates Medical and Technical College in Thatta

HYDERABAD (APP): Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah inaugurated the International Medical and Technical College of Liaquat University of Medical & Health Sciences at District Thatta here on Monday.

The chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing the event said that today marks a momentous occasion as we gather here to inaugurate the newest gem in our Province, the International Medical and Technical College of Liaquat University Medical Of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro at District Thatta.

He added that as the Chief Minister, he is filled with immense pride and gratitude for all those who have tirelessly worked to make this dream a reality.

He further added that establishment of several Medical Universities in the province and network of National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease in various districts of Sindh are

glowing examples of the commitment of the Peoples Government of Sindh towards higher medical education and delivery of health facilities to the doorstep of the people of Sindh, under the dynamic leadership of Asif Ali Zardari, Ex-President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party.

He further mentioned that Liaquat University, through its relentless efforts and dedicated health services, research and medical education earned the unique honour of the first public sector medical university of the country. Today the name of Liaquat University equals quality in medical education, health services, and research and community services.

The establishment of this Campus represents a significant milestone in our efforts to strengthen our healthcare infrastructure. With the ever-increasing population and the evolving challenges in the medi-

cal field, having a dedicated institution to train the next generation of medical professionals is of utmost importance.

This campus will not only contribute to the enhancement of medical education but will also play a pivotal role in providing quality healthcare services to our community.

Our mission is to produce competent, compassionate, and skilled doctors, nurses, and healthcare professionals who will serve our communities with dedication and empathy.

Syed Murad Ali Shah further mentioned that Investing in medical education and healthcare facilities is not just a matter of statistics and numbers; it is an investment in the well-being and future of our people. With the inauguration of this campus of Medical related fields, we are committing ourselves to a brighter and healthier future for our entire nation.

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 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.

He asked the political parties of the country whether they would continue with the rhetoric of rigging, allegations and counter allegations in the elections. He said we should come out of this mindset and play our respective role in strengthening politics and democracy in the country.



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

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. The five names given by us have not come on TV.

Govt makes film production, cinemas income tax free to promote film industry: Marriyum

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum Aurangzeb on Sunday said that the government had made the film production and cinemas income tax-free to promote the film industry in the country. While addressing Icon Awards 2023 ceremony at a local hotel here,

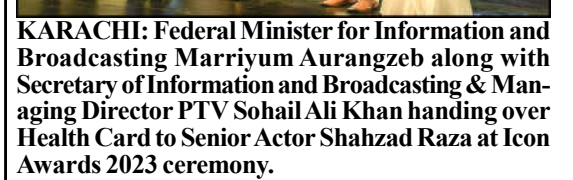
she said that the work on the first Film Policy of the country started in 2016, which was approved in 2018. She said that the policy was formulated with the consultation of the artists, producers and people related to the film industry.

The Minister said that the senior and famous artists of the country gave their inputs on the Film Policy.

Marriyum Aurangzeb said that former Prime Minister Mohammed Nawaz Sharif gave films the status of industry.

She said that under the first Film Policy cinemas had been exempted from income tax for five years.

She said that there was no import duty on cinema equipment, adding there would be no sales tax.



BISP marks remarkable progress in alleviating poverty: Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety (PA&SS) and Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Shazia Marri 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.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of MQM calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

MQM delegation thanks PM for addressing reservations on census

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement led by Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here.

The delegation included Dr Farooq Sattar, Federal Minister for IT Syed Aminul Haq and Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori. The members of the delegation thanked the

prime minister for addressing their party's reservations on the seventh digital census, and for incorporation of their suggestions.

"Thanks to Allah Almighty, the seventh digital census has been completed and the results of the census also stand unanimously approved by all political parties," the prime minister remarked in the meeting.

Governor returns Sindh protection, prohibition of breastfeeding bill with objection

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on Monday objected to the Sindh Protection, Prohibition of Breastfeeding and Young Children Nutrition Bill 2023 and returned it to the Sindh government for its revision. As per the objection, the matter was included in the federal government's legislative list and under Article 142 the federal government was entitled to enact it, according to a Governor House statement.

Further added that a few sections of the bill were against the standards of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Additional IGP gives cash rewards, commendation certificates to CIA officials

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Monday gave cash rewards and commendation certificates to the DIGP - Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), SSP - Anti Violent Crime Cell (AVCC) and their team for good performance.

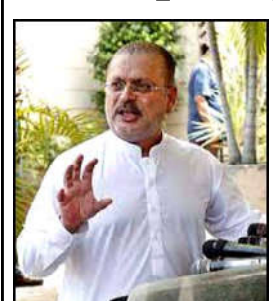
According to a spokesman for Karachi Police, the City Police Chief gave cash rewards and commendation certificates to DIGP - CIA Sharjeel Kharal, SSP - AVCC Zeeshan Siddiqui and their team members.

The AVCC had foiled the smuggling of heroin worth 0.5 million and arrested four accused of the involved gang.



THATTA: Chief Minister of Sindh Syed Murad Ali Shah offering dua after inauguration of International Medical and technical College LUMHS.

May 9 vandalism proven to be deliberate conspiracy: Sharjeel



Independent Report KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Information, Transport, and Mass Transit, Sharjeel Inam Memon on Monday said that the vandalism of May 9 have now been proven to be a deliberate conspiracy.

If these events were indeed a spontaneous reaction, why did similar incidents not occur after the re-arrest of PTI chief? Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated in a statement that

the nation did not exhibit any sympathy towards the punishment and disqualification of PTI Chairman.

He said that PTI's defilement of martyrs' memorials, assault on Jinnah House, acts of arson, and attacks on institutions signify a state of rebellion within the country.

The desecration of martyrs' memorials was a deeply distressing incident for the entire nation.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that following his removal from power through a no-confidence motion, PTI chief persistently disregarded the constitution and legal norms. He further emphasized that PTI chief orchestrated a social media campaign aimed at undermining national institutions, as part of a deliberate strategy.

President accords approval to four bills

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has accorded his approval to four bills under Article 75 of the Constitution.

The President approved the National Logistics Corporation Bill, 2023 which provided establishment of the Corporation, the President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Monday.

Separately, the president also approved the Pakistan Air Safety Investigation Bill, 2023. The objective of the legislation was to improve investigations into air accidents and travel incidents.

Pak, 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.

Nasir Shah launches Economy Housing Project for low income households

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government and Housing & Town Planning, Syed Nasir Hussain Shah, launched Public Economy Housing Project under which 4,000 housing units will be provided to low-income households.



Under the project one unit bungalows of 80, 100, 120 and 200 square foot would be constructed over an area of 250 acres in Scheme 45 Tesar Town under Malir Development Authority, said a statement issued here on Monday.

KIHD to be improved on pattern of NICVD: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab has said that the Karachi Institute of Heart Disease (KIHD) will be improved on the model of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Disease (NICVD). He said this while presiding over the introductory meeting of the governing body of KIHD.

He said that KIHD is providing medical and diagnostic facilities for the treatment of heart diseases to the citizens of Karachi, especially the residents of the Central District.

better and modern facilities will be available to patients affected by heart diseases, which will solve another long-standing problem of the people of this area. On this occasion, Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, Deputy Parliamentary Leader City Council Karachi Dil Muhammad, Executive Director KIHD and members of the governing body were also present.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the chest pain unit established at the KIHD is affiliated to the NICVD by which the patient can be transferred to NICVD for further treatment after providing first aid.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab is presiding over the Governing Body meeting during the visit to Karachi Institute of Heart Disease. Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad is also present.

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 for 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 consent, 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 make. 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 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 percent, 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 Rs 12.500 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.

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 error-free data of IPM demonstration plots in Punjab so as to finalize best crop management strategy to benefit farmers. He appreciated director IPM for his contributions adding that the crop-friendly pests being nurtured in biological laboratories and their on time supply to cotton fields helped a lot in controlling enemy pests.

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 Rs174,076.

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 Mahmood Ashrafi, Archsheop 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 it 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 Sabhat 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.

He was addressing the Pak-Iran Tourism Forum held under the auspices of the Punjab Tourism Department at a local hotel as a chief guest for the promotion of bilateral tourism on Monday.

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 Gaseemi 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.

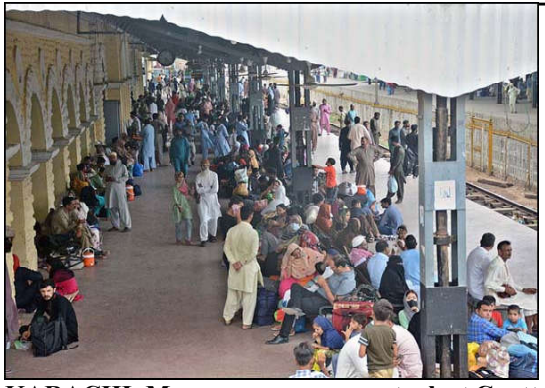


LAHORE: Advocate members of Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) are holding protest demonstration against arrested former prime minister and PTI Chairman Imran Khan, outside Supreme Court Registry.

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.

Commending the commitment to progress, Federal Minister

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 visiting 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 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.

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.

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People gather on a street in Pingyuan county, Dezhou city, in China's eastern Shandong province, following a 5.4-magnitude earthquake that shook eastern China.

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.

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

ricketty 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 Fouzi 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.



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

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.

compared to 24 per cent globally.

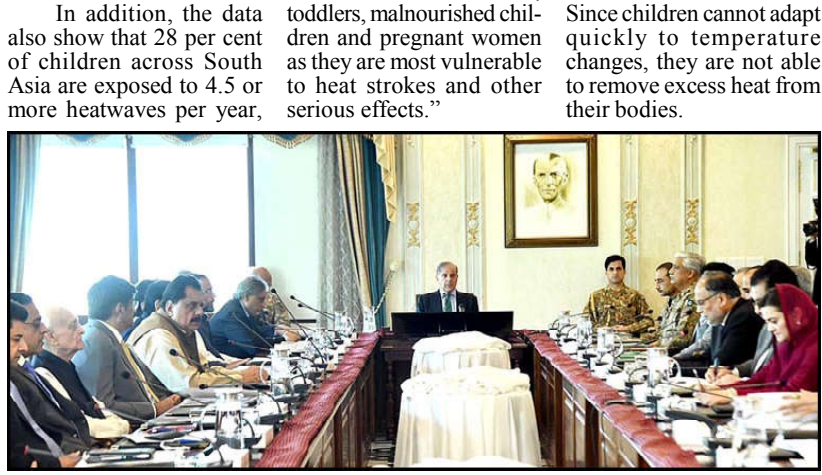
July was the hottest month ever recorded globally, raising further concerns about a future where children, including those living in South Asia, are expected to face more frequent and severe heatwaves, largely due to climate change.

“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, they are not able to remove excess heat from their bodies.



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

IGP chairs meeting to discuss e-tagging of habitual offenders

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Ghulam Nabi Memon on Monday presided over a high-level meeting to review and discuss the implementation of e-tagging to monitor habitual offenders.

The purpose of the meeting was to effectively eradicate street crimes and ensure the arrest of the accused, according to a spokesman for Sindh Police.

The DIGP-CIA gave a detailed briefing on the actual success of the arrests of habitual criminals involved in street or other serious crimes and their e-tagging through bracelets/collars and their monitoring.

Memon said that among the features of ankle, tagging were receiving calls

and SMS, going to emergency mode and GPS working etc. Apart from this, under court orders, the offender can be restricted to a certain distance.

The IGP said the Sindh Habitual Offenders Monitoring Bill 2022 had been framed by the Sindh government and its formal approval had also been given.

He instructed all the participants of the meeting to prepare comprehensive recommendations containing all the necessary departmental and legal issues for clean and transparent procurement of tender for e-tagging collar/bracelet under Sindh Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (SPPRA) Rules and send them for further necessary steps.

Four killed, several others injured in fatal road accident

KARACHI (INP): At least four people were killed while 18 others sustained injuries in a road accident at the Northern Bypass on Monday.

According to police, four persons were killed and about 18 including children sustained injured when their coaster collided with a dumper near Abbas Cut, Northern Bypass, Gulshan-e-Maymar area.

The rescue services and police immediately rushed to the spot. The deceased and injured were shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital. Police were further investigating the incident.



KARACHI: View of site after deadly traffic accident in a horrific collision between a truck and a coaster near Northern Bypass road while rescue operation is underway, in Karachi.

ISRA university observe world Hepatitis Day

HYDERABAD (APP): Isra University, in collaboration with the Health Department’s Hepatitis Prevention and Control Programme, Government of Sindh observed World Hepatitis Day by holding a walk, seminar, free hepatitis B vaccination, and screening camp inauguration & hepatitis treatment and research center here on Monday.

The event was held at the Isra University Auditorium and aimed to raise awareness about Hepatitis and promote preventive measures for this global epidemic. Zaid Ahmed Laghari, Managing Director, Isra University led the walk with faculty members, students and other staff members.

Isra University hosted

this significant event to mark World Hepatitis Day. The day is traditionally observed in the memory of Dr. Blumberg, who discovered the Hepatitis virus in 1967 and developed the Hepatitis B Vaccine in 1969. Isra University has been actively operating the Hepatitis B Vaccination Centre since 2014. This year, the event will also witness the approval and signing of an MOU to establish a Hepatitis C Treatment and Research Center, offering free medicine to positive cases.

Speaking at the seminar, experts shed light on the importance of vaccination, early detection, and timely treatment to combat Hepatitis effectively.

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.

PPP denies consensus on Hafeez Shaikh’s name for caretaker PM

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan People’s Party (PPP) Secretary General Nayyar Hussain Bokhari on Monday denied consensus on former finance minister Hafeez Shaikh’s name for the caretaker prime ministership, says in media reports.

“Rana Sanaullah should have not talked about Hafeez Shaikh’s name,” the PPP leader said reacting to the statement of the minister.

Earlier, Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah claimed that former finance minister Hafeez Shaikh was among the

candidates shortlisted for the slot of the caretaker prime minister.

Shaikh’s name was among those earlier reported to have been included in a list of five finalised by parties in the ruling coalition for the caretaker prime minister.

The purported list was also said to have included former chief justice of Pakistan Tassaduq Hussain Jilani.

Bokhari observed it’s not the prerogative of Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah to comment on the names of the caretaker prime minister candidates.

DIG orders to tight security during Independence Day

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Sukkur zone, Javed Sohnaor Jiskani on Monday issued orders for revamp in the security arrangements being made in the Sukkur division on eve of national Independence Day.

“The emerging law and order situation during last few days demand extreme care towards safety of citizens keen to celebrate the day with due zeal and fervor,” he told senior cops during a meeting to review security arrangements at his office here.

Chairman STBB denies shortage of school curriculum books exists

HYDERABAD (APP): The Chairman Sindh Text Book Board (STBB) Agha Sohail Pathan has refuted the allegation that the board is responsible for the shortage of school curriculum books. Speaking at a meeting at the board’s office in Jamshoro district on Monday, the Chairman said some elements wanted to sully the reputation of the board by spreading such disinformation.

According to him, the board published and distributed the text books in the months of June and July as per the statistics of the required books given by the Sindh Education Department.

One fisherman dies, five injured as boat capsizes

KARACHI (INP): One fisherman died, while five others were injured after their boat capsized in Arabian Sea on Monday.

According to details, a boat carrying 18 fishermen, hailing from Ibrahaim Haidri area of Karachi on board were engaged in fishing capsized.

Police, rescue divers and large number of fishermen from Ibrahaim Haidri reached the scene and took part in rescue operation.

The body and the injured were shifted to Jinnah Hospital. Authorities are investigating the reason behind the incident.

Boy killed, four others injured in road accident

KARACHI (INP): A boy was killed and four others sustained injuries when a dumper hit their motorcycle in Karachi’s Aurang Town on Monday. Rescue sources said that the ill-fated family was on a bike when the dumper hit them near Gulshan Bahar Aqsa mosque, killing a boy Adnan on the spot. The injured are Asghar, 28, Aliyan, 8, Mohammad, 6, and five-year-old Hafsa.



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.

Pak Navy war game Shamsheer-e-Bahr-IX commences at Karachi

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Pakistan Navy War Game SHAMSHEER-E-BAHR-IX commenced on Monday at Karachi, where Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamshad Mirza attended the session as the Chief Guest.

According to the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi along with senior military officers from all services were present at the occasion.

Senior journalist Zahid Kalthoro passes away

HYDERABAD (APP): Zahid Kalthoro, a senior journalist passed away on Monday due to a short illness in Hyderabad.

He had been unwell for the past few days and was admitted to a private hospital in Karachi for treatment.

As his condition worsened, he was shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU) and put on a ventilator where he breathed his last this morning. According to family sources, Zahid Kalthoro was undergoing treatment for dengue fever and was moved to a ventilator after critical condition.

His funeral prayers will be held at 5 PM today in Gulshan-e-Hadeed, Karachi.

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 in Islamabad.

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).

Bilawal Bhutto attended the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) conference in India and highlighted its atrocities and barbarism against innocent Kashmiris.

“Pakistan is politically, morally, and diplomatically supporting the Kashmir indigenous movement as the Kashmiri people are rendering supreme sacrifices for decades,” he maintained.

He said all the Pakistani governments had always taken a unified stance over the Kashmir issue.

He urged the international community to take steps to stop India from perpetrating gruesome human rights violations in IIOJK, adding that Kashmiris were awaiting the world commitment to implement the promises made by Indian Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru and UNGA resolutions.

Kaira inaugurates Syed Ali Geelani’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 apprise 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

New AC assumes charge in City taluka

HYDERABAD (APP): The newly posted Assistant Commissioner of City Taluka, BS-17 Ex-PCS Shahzad Umair Jarwar, assumed the charge of his office here on Monday.

Jarwar replaced the BS-17 PAS officer Ahmed Murtaza who has been directed to report to the Services, General Administration and Coordination Department.

Rangers, ANF arrest two drug peddlers

KARACHI (APP): The Pakistan Rangers Sindh and Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) in a joint intelligence-based operation in Landhi Town arrested two alleged drug peddlers and recovered a huge quantity of drugs.

According to a spokesman for Rangers on Monday, two drug peddlers identified as Majid Khan and Sadiq were arrested from New Sherpao Muslim Colony, Landhi.

The agencies recovered 52kg of hashish from their possession.

During the initial interrogation, the arrested confessed that they used to sell drugs in different areas of the megalopolis. The arrested along with recovered drugs had been handed over to ANF for further legal proceedings.

Man confesses to acid attack on his wife in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): In a shocking twist to the acid attack case in Liaquatabad, the burqa-wearing culprit turned out to be the husband of the effected woman, police officials said Monday. Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Liaquatabad – Ayaz Ahmed – solved the mystery within 12 hours, arrested the culprit behind the acid attack. ASP Ayaz Ahmed, at the forefront of the investigation, personally visited the acid attack survivor at the hospital.

Govt. withdraws PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023

PML-N on forefornt 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 journalists 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.



KARACHI: Sindh Governor Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori addressing to the artists, directors and producers at Icon Awards 2023 ceremony.

Govt to fix sugarcane prices within couple of days: Manzoor Wasan

KARACHI: The Advisor to Chief Minister for Agriculture Manzoor Hussain Wasan on Monday said provincial government will fix sugarcane price from Rs 425 to 450 per 40 kilogram and decision to this effect will be taken within couple of days.



He said this while chairing a meeting to set sugarcane prices in Sindh for upcoming season. The Secretary Agriculture Ijaz Ahmed Mahesar, MPA Shahina Sher Ali, Cane Commissioner. PASMA representatives, Growers Representatives and other officials were present in the meeting. The farmer’s leaders suggested the Sindh government to set the price of sugarcane at Rs 450 per maund, while the sugar mill owners suggested setting the price at Rs 425 and equal to that of Punjab.

Commissioner visits PMCH, meets train injured victims

HYDERABAD (APP): Commissioner Muhammad Abbas Baloch on Tuesday visited the People Medical College Hospital (PMCH) and inquired after the health of injured victims of Hazara Express tragedy that occurred near Sahrai station on Monday.

Directing the hospital administration, Commissioner stressed for provision of all possible facilities of treatment to victims. Commissioner directed district administration for making arrangement of shifting of train victims to reach their homes after discharge from hospital and he shall be informed in case of any difficulty so that it could be resolved immediately.

Talking to media, Commissioner said that emergency was announced at Shaheed Benazirabad and Sanghar in the wake tragic train accident of Hazara Express, the rescue and treatment was started immediately.



NAWABSHAH: Railway workers busy in repairing rail track after Hazara express train incident near Sarhari railway station.

Down track restored a day after fatal Hazara Express derailment in Nawabshah

NAWABSHAH (INP): A day after the fatal incident of the Hazara Express derailment near Nawabshah in which 34 passengers were killed and over 80 others got injured, the railways authorities restored the down track for traffic on Monday.

The authorities have completed the identification of 29 dead bodies and handed them over to their heirs.

Seven bodies have been dispatched to Tando Adam, two to Sadiqabad, two to Multan, and 18 bodies sent to Sindh.

All the dead bodies have been salvaged from the ill-fated train bogies.

According to rail authorities, the down track has been restored while work on the up track restoration is underway.

The Pakistan Army and Rangers officials participated in the rescue efforts. The helicopters of Army Aviation also took part in the rescue operation.