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Pakistan isolated in world during Imran Niazi's tenure: PM

Says Nawaz Sharif to return next month to lead election campaign

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday said that Imran Khan Niazi had ruined relations with the friendly countries and isolated Pakistan in the world. The prime minister, in an interview with 'WeNews', said that an effort was made to create a bloc and isolate Saudi Arabia through that bloc. "What a sad incident and what a fallen thought that a friend who helps you like a brother and family without any condition or greed and we become ungrateful and forgetful of its kindness," he added. The prime minister said that the two brotherly

countries could never have imagined such a bad situation that happened during Imran Niazi's tenure.

Terming the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief's narrative that his (Shehbaz's) government was brought in power under an American conspiracy, a pack of lies, the prime minister said if the contents of the cipher, which was printed (in the international newspaper), were true, then it was a very big crime. With regard to the news about the cipher published in the international journal 'The Intercept', he said that two meetings of the National Security Council regarding the cipher were held under his chair-

manship. In a meeting, the then Pakistani ambassador and current Foreign Secretary Asad Majeed clearly stated that there was no talk of conspiracy in his meeting with the United States official Donald Lu.

The then Chief of Army Staff General Bajwa and other services chiefs also confirmed that there was no conspiracy hatched against Pakistan, he added.

"Imran Niazi's narrative was that America tried to topple his government because he was more attracted to China and Russia, so tell me that if our government was formed through the American conspiracy.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Muhammad Kamran Khan Tessori addressing as a Chief Guest of the Graduation Ceremony for the participants of 33rd Senior Management Course at National Institute of Management (NIM).

Mariyum urges journalists, media workers to remain united for implementation of PEMRA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Information Secretary of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and former Minister for Information and Broadcasting Mariyum Aurangzeb on Thursday urged the journalists and media workers to remain united and ensure implementation of PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023, which would replace the 2002 PEMRA Ordinance, a black law introduced by Pervez Musharraf.

Mariyum Aurangzeb thanked all the media organizations including All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS), Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA), Parliamentary Reporters Association (PRA), Council of Pakistan Newspaper

Editors (CPNE) for their guidance and support in the preparation of the PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023. During her visit to National Press Club here, she said that for the past over 12 months, consultations were held with all stakeholders for the preparation of the Bill.

She said that the rights of working journalists and media workers have been protected in the Bill as the issuance of government advertisements has been linked to payment of salaries and dues of the journalists and media workers. Moreover, the rule of minimum wages would now be applicable for media organizations, she added. The former minister said that the outgoing government

had introduced Health Insurance Card scheme for journalists and media workers and had created a fund for payment of Rs 4 million to the families of those who die in the line of duty.

She ruled out the impression given by a certain lobby that the Bill was prepared in haste or it was being passed on the instructions of someone.

The former minister also rubbished the impression that she had withdrawn the Bill from the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting under pressure of some persons. Citing the examples of slogans against her by workers of a political party, she said that she never bowed to pressure.

Pakistan's total foreign reserves reach at \$ 13.33 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 13,339.1 million while reserves held by the central bank reached \$ 8,043.4 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$ 110 million to \$ 8,043.4 million on account of debt repayments during the week ended on August 04, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at US\$ 5,295.7 million, it added.

In the previous week ending on July 27, 2023, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 13,463.7 million.

Among them, foreign reserves held by the central bank were US\$ 8,153.8 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were US\$ 5,309.9 million.



SUKKUR: View of stagnant water after low-level flood at Indus River, while flood water entered riverside settlements, showing negligence of concerned authorities, in Sukkur.

8 of a family die, Van collides with truck

LAYYAH (Online): At least 8 persons of a family died and 6 others were injured in van-truck collision in Layya Thursday.

The accident took place in Adda Hafiz Abad, Tehsil Chobara.

The Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the bodies and injured to Tehsil hospital. Medical aid was provided to the injured in the hospital.

23 KP cabinet members resigned

PESHAWAR (APP): 23 out of 25 members of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's caretaker cabinet on Thursday tendered resignations.

The caretaker chief minister had invited the cabinet members for tea here and informed them that the Election Commission had written a letter to seek resignations from members having political affiliations.

According to CM Secretariat Pir Haroon Shah, Fazl Elahi, Himayatullah, Taj Muhammad, Zafar Mahmood and Rehmat Islam Khattak were among the members who tendered resignations.



ISLAMABAD: Leader of the Opposition, Raja Riaz Ahmad calls on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif as part of the consultation process for selection of the Caretaker Prime Minister.

Governor proposes setting up Primary Education Commission to ensure quality learning

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori, on Thursday, suggested the formation of a Primary Education Commission for improving the quality of early childhood education. The Governor, while addressing the Graduation Ceremony of the 33rd Senior Management Course at the National Institute of Management, Karachi, said that the proposed commission may be constituted on the pattern of the Higher Education Commission with objectives of ensuring quality education to children aged between 5 to 8 years.

The commission would ensure learning along with training of the future generation on the lines that they grow to become productive, sensible and contributing citizens of the society who are always ready not only to help their fellow citizens but also contribute wholeheartedly to the efforts of social and

economic development of the motherland, he stated.

Stressing the need for the promotion of national spirit, the governor said that all 240 million Pakistanis have to join hands for economic and social development and solidarity of the country. National spirit and nationalistic vision were the key to the success of all the developed nations who grew and prospered in the world, he noted and urged that the Pakistani nation has to unite under the national flag while putting aside all the political, linguistic, sectarian and other differences.

Kamran Tessori while recalling the sad incidents of May 9 said that those unfortunate occurrences were the manifestation of the fact that society had lost valuable qualities of patience and endurance and an infuriated mob inflicted damages to a house attributed to the founder of Pakistan Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

without having a second thought that it is our own country. "Today, we have to pledge that we will thoroughly consider the objectives and consequences of each of our actions and set the right direction for ourselves and perform at least a single act that will contribute to national development," he urged.

Kamran Tessori said that the doors of the Sindh governor's house were opened to the public as soon as he assumed the charge of the office and a number of philanthropists joined his hands in welfare initiatives like Iftar dinners in Ramzan-ul-Mubarak, provision of food ration to deserving families and free IT courses for youth.

He said that modern technologies were emerging at a fast pace around the world and the governor's house in collaboration with philanthropists decided to organise free IT courses for 50000 youth.



KARACHI: A meeting on implementation of deceased quota was held at Sindh Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput.

Sindh govt approves 762 appointments under deceased quota: CS

Independent Report

KARACHI: A meeting on implementation of deceased quota was held at Sindh Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput on Tuesday. The meeting was attended by secretaries of various departments including senior members of the Board of Revenue and Chairman Enquiries and Anti-Corruption.

The meeting approved 762 appointments under deceased quota (a quota fixed for the legal heirs of government employees who died during service) in 29 departments including 28 in Agriculture Department, 12 in Revenue, 32 in College Educa-

tion, 93 in Health Department, 98 in Irrigation Department, 294 in School Education Department, 46 in Works Service Department, 13 in Public Health Engineering, 4 in Excise Department, 61 in Local Government Department, 14 in Population, 11 in Forest, four in Home Department, 3 in Social Welfare, 3 in Services General Administration 2 and two in Culture department, 11 in food department, 11 in livestock and fisheries. In the meeting, Chief Secretary Sindh Dr. Muhammad Sohail Rajput said that the families of 13 thousand government employees have been given jobs on deceased quota in Sindh since 2018.

SHC stopped the govt from recruiting in various departments

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court has stopped the federal government from recruiting in various departments.

Sindh High Court heard the petition filed by MQM Pakistan against the recruitment of Sindh government in more than 140 departments.

In the petition of MQM, it was said that Sindh government is making recruitments without fulfilling the legal requirements and the provincial government is awarding

jobs to the people it likes.

The petitioner said that the term of the Sindh government is ending on August 11, 2023 and this action of theirs falls under the category of pre-election rigging.

After hearing the petition, the court stopped the series of recruitments in various departments of the Sindh government and also suspended the various advertisements related to the jobs. The court also issued notices to the Sindh government and others for August 30.

Court terminates Imran's bail petition in Al-Qadir Trust case

ISLAMABAD (APP): An Accountability Court (AC) on Thursday terminated the interim bail petition of PTI chairman Imran Khan due to non-pursuance in Al-Qadir Trust case connected with a scam worth Rs190 million.

However, the court disposed of the pre-arrest bail case of Bushra Bibi after the NAB officials stated that no arrest warrants had been issued against her.

The AC-I Judge Muhammad Bashir announced the verdict against the bail petitions of former prime minister and his wife.

On the query of the judge, the NAB Prosecutor Sardar Muzafar Abbasi informed the court that no arrest warrants had been issued against Bushra Bibi.

Her lawyer, Khawaja Haris said that the inquiry

into the case had been converted into investigation.

Intizar Panjutha Advocate prayed to the court to pass an order refraining the arrest of his client in future in the said case.

Khawaja Haris prayed to the court to extend the interim bail of Imran Khan and grant him exemption from appearance as he was in jail.

NAB prosecutor Sardar Muzafar Abbasi said that the defence could file the exemption from appearance request for one day.

The court earlier reserved the judgment on the bail petition of the two accused and later terminated the bail petition of Imran Khan. However, the bail case of Bushra Bibi was disposed of after the statement of NAB.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif addressing a farewell meeting held in the honor of Federal Secretaries.

PM, opposition leader to meet again today to reach consensus on caretaker PM's selection

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the Opposition in National Assembly Raja Riaz met with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday as part of the consultation process for the selection of the caretaker prime minister.

After detailed deliberation, the two leaders decided to meet again tomorrow (Friday) to reach a consensus on selecting a name for the

caretaker prime minister.

As per the constitution, the prime minister had invited the opposition leader to a meeting regarding the appointment of the caretaker prime minister.

The meeting to consult the name of the caretaker prime minister was held in a cordial environment, said a press release issued by the Prime Minister Office.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab addresses to media persons during press conference, at Sindh Assembly in Karachi.

Mayor Karachi calls upon journalists to discourage false, fake news

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab on Thursday said that access to information, investigative reporting and fact-finding are the main responsibilities of professional journalists, success in this field is possible only through hard work and continuous struggle.

Therefore, he said that journalists related to local government institutions always keep the larger interest of Karachi and citizens in mind by discouraging false and fake news.

He expressed these views while addressing the closing ceremony of a one-day training workshop organized by City Institute of Image Management of KMC on the topic of "Role and Responsibilities of local government Journalists".

The Mayor Karachi's Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, Senior Journalist and Scholar Mahmood Sham,

Mazhar Abbas, Head of the Journalism Department, the University of Karachi Dr. Tausif Ahmed Khan, Shehzad Chughtai, Imran Ali Shah, Director Saim Muhammad Shahid and other officers were also present on this occasion.

Mayor Karachi said that local government reporting has a very important role in the better and more effective performance of local bodies as their effective guidance and identification of problems help in the completion of development work.

He said that positive thinking and sincerity is the basic condition for improvement in urban affairs and we get a lot of positive information from journalists reporting on local bodies, from which we get guidance, if there is a training workshop.

for the elected UC chairmen and vice chairmen along with the training of municipal reporters.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Democracy lost

With the PDM-led government's controversial tenure drawing to an end, it is worth reflecting on what was gained from the change of leadership its component parties imposed on the country last year.

In March 2022, with the PTI at the nadir of its popularity amidst rising inflation and general disillusionment with its capability to govern, the opposition parties coalesced around the single-point agenda of taking down Imran Khan's government.

It had seemed like a golden opportunity at the time — a chance to bury the 'hybrid regime' and reposition the parties that had been sidelined after the 2018 general elections as the true and deserving inheritors of Pakistan's political destiny.

The task before them was clear: reverse the economic slide triggered by the PTI's bad policies and offer the people the promise of a better future closely aligned with the aspirations of Pakistan's youthful population.

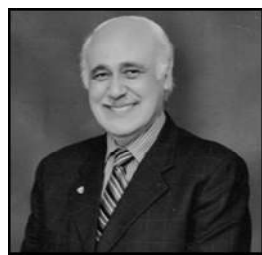
Unfortunately, those who took over never did their homework. They worsened the economic crisis by wasting months dilly-dallying over the 'best' response, introduced repressive and regressive policies to counter and contain the PTI, and pushed a legislative agenda that seemed tailored to suit a few vested interests rather than address the growing needs of the many.

This quickly led to disenchantment with the PDM-led government's version of 'purana Pakistan'. The new rulers never really figured out how to address the vigorous challenge to their legitimacy launched by the prime minister they had ousted. Misstep after misstep lost them immeasurable political capital amidst social turbulence and a perfect economic storm.

Eventually, it seems, the politicians simply gave up trying to solve political problems with the lawful means at their disposal. In their desperation to keep Mr Khan away from power, they let unelected forces back into the driving seat. The rest, as they say, is history.

The PDM-led government now leaves behind a political system ravaged by legislative subterfuge and organised subversion of the parliamentary process. It leaves the Constitution looking weak and irrelevant, and has consciously ceded civilian power in its last days to forces that have historically refused to play by any rules but their own.

How could a political movement that prided itself on utilising constitutional process to remove a 'bad' prime minister end up condemning Pakistan to a worse iteration of hybrid rule? One is now inclined to believe that bringing down the PTI government was never about principle. Those who, with some justification, criticised Mr Khan for being a puppet prime minister proved more than eager to take his place. Ultimately, it was a race between two rival factions to prove who could be more 'loyal' and 'obedient' than the other. One has now won favour; but for how long is anybody's guess.



F.S. Aijazuddin

The film A Time to Kill (1996), derived from John Grisham's best-selling novel, was set in the fictional town of Clanton in the southern state of Mississippi in the US. In its closing scenes, a white defence lawyer (Matthew McConaughey) defends his black client (Samuel L. Jackson) against a murder charge against two white rapists of his young, 10-year-old daughter.

The lawyer's summing up begins: "I want to tell you a story [about] a little girl walking home from the grocery store one sunny afternoon. Suddenly, a truck races up. Two men jump out and grab her. They drag her into a nearby field and they tie her up and they rip the clothes from her body." After assaulting and brutalising her, they leave her for dead.

"I want you to picture that little black girl," he asks the Mississippi jury. "Now imagine she is white."

Replace Mississippi with Sargodha, and fiction dovetails with reality. Imagine an illiterate 13-year-old girl, Rizwana, employed by a civil judge and his educated wife in Sargodha. The teenager needs the work. She comes from an overcrowded home of impoverished parents and nine other siblings.

A fortnight ago, Rizwana's father, Manga Khan, called at the judge's residence to meet his daughter, probably to collect her meagre wages of Rs10,000.

According to the report he filed with the police, "As I stepped in the house of the judge, I heard

A blind eye

screams of my daughter coming out from a room. We rushed to the room where we saw she was lying on the floor in an injured condition," with wounds on Rizwana's head, face, legs and torso.

Rizwana was admitted for medical care first in Sargodha, but because her condition was deemed too critical, she was shifted to Lahore General Hospital, where she has been fighting for a life that offers only pain and undesired suffering.

According to the hospital team now caring with commendable zeal for Rizwana, her wounds were horrific. Her skeletal injuries were arms with multiple fractures, consistent with frequent blows from a blunt instrument.

Damage to her soft tissue consisted of unhealed wounds on her scalp, where her hair had been pulled away from its roots. These had festered and become a meal for maggots. She also had burn marks on her torso and back, which had filled with pus.

On discovery, her weight was no more than 30 kilograms. Had she been fed properly and regularly (as Judge Hafeez's three children aged seven to 12 years were), her weight should have been closer to 46kg.

Because of her precarious condition, an injection called pentaglobin, costing Rs500,000 is being administered to her, free of cost, to help eliminate the infection in her body.

No one will ever be able to assess the psychological trauma Rizwana has suffered, or how long it will take her to recover from it. Probably never in her damaged lifetime.

Meanwhile, while Rizwana was being rushed to the hospital in Sargodha, her employer — the judge's wife, Ms Somalia — rushed to an Islamabad district and sessions court, where a judge, Dr Abida Sajjad,

granted her pre-arrest bail against a surety of Rs100,000.

In the film, McConaughey asked his all-white jury to picture that young black victim: "Now imagine she is white."

Now imagine that Rizwana had been the daughter of Judge Hafeez and his wife Somalia, and that she had been systematically tortured by a lowly menial. Would that perpetrator have obtained pre-arrest bail from a judge as quickly?

Politicians from the PML-N have been quick to capitalise on Rizwana's predicament.

Khawaja Asif (minister of defence, and not health or social welfare) went to ask after her, followed by Maryam Nawaz, the senior vice president of the PML-N.

She asked Rizwana blithely why she had not reported the abuse when it had been going on for six months. Did she expect the injured teenager to escape from a domestic prison and then, with broken arms, sign an FIR?

Had Maryam Nawaz stayed long enough at the hospital beyond her brief social call, she would have learned that Rizwana's mother had endured 12 pregnancies in 15 years of marriage, and that she had no one to look after her nine other children while she was in the Lahore General Hospital caring for Rizwana. It took the police 10 days to constitute a joint investigation team to probe the case, and finally, on Aug 7, Somalia Hafeez was arrested. Rizwana's doctors found fingernail marks around her eyes, indicating that someone with sharp nails had tried to gouge an eyeball out of its socket. Had that heartless person succeeded, Rizwana would have been as blind as justice is in Pakistan. — Courtesy Dawn

A new dark age?



Rafia Zakaria

Over the past half century, when the hold of liberal democracy over at least the world's rich and Western nations was strong, a level of predictability reigned. It could be assumed that elections would be held on time, that political opponents would not be imprisoned or tried for sham crimes, that minorities would not be persecuted. For those lucky enough to live in these countries, a semblance of a social contract existed between them and the state.

That status quo is no more. Even the US, not simply an old democracy but also the greatest democracy propagator, was recently moved to the category of 'backsliding democracies' — a category where the necessary precepts of democracy are not quite guaranteed. The recent list of indictments of former president Donald Trump have done away with the tradition of not slapping charges, technical or substantive, on political opponents. The fact that a good percentage of voting Americans do not believe that the 2020 election was fair and have even less faith in the possibility of free and fair elections in 2024 has been another blow.

Finally, the neutrality of the court and its ability to adjudicate on poll-related (the 2024 elections) lawsuits have been questioned following the political lobbying of the spouse of supreme court justice Clarence Thomas and the political leanings of various other judges in America, thus eroding further safeguards.

Things are worse in Europe. In countries like

Hungary, the cult of personality has led to the ascendance of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and his party. His dominance is so complete that only members of the inner elite can get government posts and contracts, even though Hungary is part of the EU and subject to all the checks and balances that come with the membership. In fact, Hungary is able to capitalise through the EU forum to get plum economic deals while paying no heed to democratic safeguards — with other EU nations such as Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse that outsources its car manufacturing to Hungary, looking the other way.

This web of interrelations and autocratic rule is expanding. Consensus-building, which is at the heart of democratic rule, takes time and energy (and chaos) to achieve. Autocratic rule, as the example of India — another backsliding democracy — shows, is far more centralised and capable of fast action and producing intoxicating nationalism to satiate millions. Media censorship and bans on foreign funding for CSOs further enables a singular narrative that defeats any possibility of democracy's resurgence.

Pakistan's situation must be evaluated against such international realities. Until now, the health of democracy in developing countries had been more a matter of Western concern. Democratic indices during the height of the West's democracy-propagation decades were used to celebrate or lament a nascent democracy's ascent or descent. While meddling in Pakistan's affairs may still be strategically valuable to Western nations, America chief among them, there could be a level of indifference to Pakistan's continuing foibles that didn't exist

before.

When you walk into a courtroom, or even watch a legal drama, you can see there are certain procedures to be followed. Evidence must be presented in a certain way, witnesses are questioned according to a certain procedure, and lawyers make arguments based on certain conventions. These procedures are followed because they ensure that all defendants are treated the same. The close following of these procedures means that the result or verdict is considered just and legitimate. The more strictly the conventions are followed, the more legitimate the result will be.

Democracy is no different. When courts are seen to issue verdicts not based on law or evidence, or cave in to political pressure the verdicts they produce lack legitimacy. The more times this happens, the less legitimate court justice becomes. Similarly, when political figures are routinely imprisoned and indicted when they are not in power, elections become suspect, as do the charges against various politicians. The lack of accurate information concerning different varieties of corrupt rulers and their children means that the public is kept in a constant state of confusion and disbelief. It is also the public that has the most to lose as democracy, or at least the institutions and conventions that make it possible, are eroded. Every time power is transferred in a violent manner, or when political rivals try to get the other disqualified or imprisoned, each time the civil rights of political workers and activists are trampled on, it is the ordinary citizens who lose. In all the uncertainty that accompanies democratic backsliding, this one thing is guaranteed. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Iran's CG for cooperation with Pakistan, China in energy, infrastructure projects

LAHORE (APP): Iran can cooperate with Pakistan and China in many sectors including energy, infrastructure projects, and many other fields by providing its manpower and skilled labor.

These views were expressed by Mr. Mehran Movahed Far, Consul General (CG) of Iran to Lahore who visited Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) on Thursday at PCJCCI Secretariat to discuss trilateral relations between Iran, Pakistan and China.

Mehran Movahed

Far, on this occasion, expressed that Iran and Pakistan enjoy good relations that should be transformed into growing business relations to achieve mutual economic benefits. He stressed the need for a delegation of China and Pakistan to visit Iran see the potential for business and investment opportunities and assured that his Embassy would provide them all possible support and cooperation.

He also thanked China and Pakistan for providing support to Iran at international forums and reaffirmed that he would

work to further strengthen trade and economic bonds between the three countries. The meeting was attended by the executive committee members of PCJCCI and many top-notch business leaders from both Pakistan and China. Moazzam Ghurki President PCJCCI said that Pakistan, Iran and China are three brotherly countries and they can complement each other's economy in many fields, therefore, they should focus on promoting trade and economic ties to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

USC starts targeted subsidy on special orders of PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Utility Stores Corporation (USC) has started targeted subsidies on the special orders of the Prime Minister (PM) of Pakistan Mian Shahbaz Sharif.

Five basic commodities (flour, ghee, sugar, pulses, and rice) are being provided at the cheapest rates, said a press release issued here.

Households registered

under the Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) with a poverty index score of PMT_40 or less, will be eligible for a subsidy.

(BISP) Registered users must show their original identity card at the counter to avail subsidy. After the targeted subsidy, flour will be available at Rs 648 per 10 kg bag, ghee at Rs 353 per kg and sugar at Rs 100 per kg.

SCCI gets 'Development Leadership Award'

SIALKOT (APP): The government has bestowed upon the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) the prestigious 'Development Leadership Award'.

According to the SCCCI press release, the award was given in recognition of the SCCCI meritorious services in domains of trade, commerce, and industrial development.



PESHAWAR: Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali distributing awards under the auspices of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) at Governor's House.

SBP to issue Rs100 coin to commemorate 10 years of CPEC

Independent Report
KARACHI: To mark the 10th anniversary of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) to issue Rs 100 commemorative coin on Friday. The coin shall be issued through the exchange counters of SBP Banking Services Corporation from August 11, 2023, said a statement issued here on Thursday.

The government of Pakistan has decided to issue a commemorative coin of Rs 100 in recognition of the significant contribution of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor to country's

infrastructure and economic development since its inception in 2013. The coin is in round shape milled with serrations on the edge, diameter of 30.00 mm, weight 13.5 grams and has Cupro-Nickel metal contents, the statement read. On the obverse side and in the centre of the coin, an artistically designed five-pointed star has been reflected.

The crescent moon and star as present in Pakistan's national flag and a group of five stars as present in China's national flag were also shown inside the artistically designed star at right and left positions, respectively.

Price review committee reduces price of 8 food items in Haripur

HARIPUR (APP): Keeping in view the reduction and increase in the price of various essential commodities, the Price Review Committee (PRC) district Haripur on Thursday approved a decrease in the price of 8 food items. Chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Haripur Imran Khan Jadoon, the PRC's meeting reviewed the current prices of 22 food items and approved the reduction in the prices of 8 food items including different pulses, rice and Baisan.

According to the breakup of 22 food items price increase and decrease, the PRC approved

decrease of 8 food items, increase in 10 items while the price of 4 food items remained the same.

The ADC issued an instruction to the concerned to strictly comply with the new rate lists and monitor prices of the food items in district Haripur, take stern legal action against the violators, profiteers and hoarders. In the meeting was attended by Additional Assistant Commissioner Haripur Sarfraz Ali Qureshi, District Food Controller Sheeraz Khan, Food Controller Pristan Qureshi, Director Livestock Dr. Sarab Khan, representative of the consumers of district Haripur.

Business community asked to cooperate in controlling use of polythene bags

ISLAMABAD (APP): Director General, Pakistan Environment Protection Agency (PAK-EPA) Ms. Farzana Altaf Shah Thursday said that the polythene shopping bags were posing serious threats to human health and the environment besides causing blockage of streams, nullahs and sewerage lines. Therefore, the business community should cooperate in controlling their use in the federal capital to promote a healthy environment, she

said while addressing the members of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) during her visit to the Chamber.

Farzana Altaf Shah said that PAK-EPA needed the cooperation of ICCI and the Market Associations for proper implementation of plastic shopping bags laws and regulations to make Islamabad a plastic free city.

She briefed the business community about the key features of the new

regulations to prohibit the use of plastic shopping bags and hoped that as responsible citizens, they would extend full cooperation in complying with these regulations.

Speaking on the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhawari, President ICCI assured that the business community would cooperate in controlling the plastic shopping bags in Islamabad in order to make Islamabad a clean and green and environmentally friendly city.

PIA offers 14% discount on I-Day

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has announced a 14 per cent discount on all its domestic flights on Independence Day.

According to a PIA spokesperson, the national flag carrier announced this 'Azadi Offer' as part of the Independence Day festivities. He said that travellers can avail of a remarkable 14 per cent price reduction on all of the airline's domestic flights on Independence Day.

The special offer is set to make travel within the country more accessible and affordable for passengers looking to commemorate the nation's independence. The discounted tickets are exclusively valid for travel on August 14th only.

Pakistani hand carved furniture on high demand in global market: Kashif

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief Executive Officer Pakistan Furniture Council Mian Kashif Ashfaq on Thursday highlighted the global significance and high demand of Pakistani hand-carved furniture, particularly in America and the Middle East. Talking to a delegation of furniture manufacturers led by Arabi Arain, he said it attracts foreigners, tourists and visitors who appreciate cultural authenticity, said a news release issued here.

It serves as a way to share Pakistan's artistic heritage with the world, promoting cultural exchange and appreciation, he added. He said hand-carved furniture promotes sustainable practices by valuing quality over quantity that often utilizes

locally sourced materials and minimizes the environmental impact associated with mass production. He said each creation becomes a work of art, preserving the essence of Pakistani culture. He said hand-carved furniture of Pakistan reflects the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of the region that attracts foreign buyers. He said these pieces often incorporate intricate designs and motifs that are deeply rooted in the country's history and traditions. He said the creation of hand-carved furniture involves skilled artisans who have honed their craft over generations and their expertise and dedication contribute to the uniqueness.



MULTAN: Labourers offloading sacks of vegetables from delivery truck at vegetable market.

Alvi opens cardiac centre, stresses Islamic principles of welfare, service

LAHORE (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi underscored the intrinsic purpose of Islam as advancement and progress of society. Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Sarwar Shahida Memorial Cardiac Centre and Research Institute here on Thursday, he emphasised that engaging in charitable endeavours was a distinctive trait of Muslims. He lauded those who contribute to their nation's betterment, labeling them as true heroes.

President Alvi's speech centered on the idea that Islam encourages a spirit of compassion and mutual

support among individuals. He reiterated that while governments may change, the underlying national structure endures. Highlighting the growth of philanthropy among Muslims after the formation of Pakistan, he stressed the pivotal role of individuals in assisting the marginalised. Drawing from the examples set by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the Khulafa-e-Rashidin, President Alvi conveyed the importance of service to humanity. He pointed out that Islam assigns societal responsibilities, a notion evident from the Quran's

opening chapter. Pakistan's core objective, he maintained, is rooted in Quranic teachings of serving society and nurturing a strong sense of responsibility.

The president encouraged virtues such as charity, truthfulness, respect for elders, empathy, and cooperation, particularly in the younger generation. While acknowledging the government's role in addressing major issues, he emphasised that every individual in the Islamic framework has a role to play in serving others.



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi unveiling plaque during ground breaking ceremony the Sarwar Shahida Memorial Cardiac & Research Institute.

Pakistan is committed to complete eradication of polio virus: Governor

LAHORE (Online): Canadian High Commissioner to Pakistan Leslie Scanlon met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore, here today. In the meeting, issues of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation in health, trade, environment and mining sectors were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Pakistan is committed to complete

eradication of polio virus, we are grateful for the support of the Canadian government in this regard, he added. The Canadian High Commissioner appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani government to combat polio. Governor Punjab further said that Pakistanis living in Canada are playing a positive role in the development of Canada. He said that Pakistan is keen to further expand bilateral cooperation with Canada in trade, environment, and people-to-people contact.

PTI former MNA Gulzar shifted to Adiala jail

RAWALPINDI (Online): PTI former MNA Shandana Gulzar has been shifted to Adiala jail.

According to sources Shandana Gulzar has been detained in Adiala jail for 15 days. She has been detained on DC Islamabad orders under 3 MPO.

Sher Afzal Khan counsel for PTI had said Police and the personnel in plain clothes have abducted Shandana Gulzar. On the other hand Islamabad police had confirmed the arrest of Shandana Gulzar.

Two ghost employees suspended

MUZAFFARGARH (APP): Two ghost employees among dozens reported to have been deputed in Municipal Corporation, were suspended on Thursday after an enquiry.

Administrator Municipal Corporation Asghar Laghari sought attendance of the employees during surprise visit. He found that 27 employees were collecting salaries worth lacs at their homes while absent from the office since induction.

The administrator suspended two employees on the spot while served show cause notices on rest of the fifteen employees.

KP Governor says: Govt, military shares best vision towards facilitation of business, investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali has said that the government and military leadership have best vision and approach towards the facilitation of business community and promotion of investment in the country.

Addressing an awards distribution ceremony under the auspices of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) here at Governor's House on Thursday, he said that there are minerals worth trillions of rupees in the mountains of the country including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and urged the apex trade body to conduct research on the treasures

hidden in the mountains of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan and play a role in ensuring the development and prosperity of the country by utilizing these minerals and natural resources in a better manner.

Besides, the Caretaker Provincial Minister Fazal Elahi, Special Assistant to Caretaker Chief Minister Malik Maher Elahi, FPCCI President Irfan Iqbal Sheikh, Vice President Masoodur Rehman, SAARC Chamber Anjum Nisar, Chairman of Businessmen Panel Shah Zeb, FPC CI Coordinator Sartaj Ahmad Khan, former caretaker provincial minister Adnan Jallil along with former presidents of FPCCI, Peshawar.



KARACHI: Victims of ASF Tower/Arabian Vista are holding protest demonstration for demanding ownership rights, at Shahrah-e-Faisal near Natha Khan Bridge in Karachi.

Brands offering Independence Day discounts to customers

ISLAMABAD (APP): With only a few days left in the Independence Day celebrations, falling on August 14, different fashion brands and outlets in the federal capital have started offering good discounts on dresses, shoes, and other accessories to attract buyers, especially women.

Every year, famous brands offer good sales and discount offers on the occasion of Independence Day giving an opportunity to the people to buy good

stocks for the next whole season. "Buying summer dresses and other seasonal accessories at full price has become difficult for the working class during the prevailing inflation so we wait for such occasions to come", Aisha Naz, a mother of three children said.

Talking to APP, she said that "We always buy clothes for ourselves and kids at the sales offered on Independence Day and other such occasions for the next season".



KARACHI: Police officials from Crime Scene Unit and Police Investigation Department are being given hands-on training at the mock crime scenes in Sindh Forensic DNA and Serology Laboratory (SFDL) held at ICCBS University of Karachi.

PRCS chairman lauds AJK chapter's services for humanity

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): Chairman Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK Ejaz Raza was called on National Chairman Sardar Shahid Ahmed Laghari here on Wednesday. The meeting was aimed to discuss the on-going relief operations in a recent land sliding incident that struck the village Damishi/Abhyal in district Muzaffarabad.

During the meeting, a significant step towards strengthening humanitarian efforts and disaster

response was discussed besides focusing on collaborative strategies to enhance relief operations, healthcare services and community engagement.

The Chairman PRCS briefed about the recent land sliding incident in district Muzaffarabad and on-going relief operations. Besides, both the chairmen engaged in a comprehensive discussion about the current state of humanitarian activities within AJK and the broader goals of the PRCS.

CM attends funeral prayer of martyred policeman

PESHAWAR (APP): The funeral prayer for a policeman who was martyred by unknown assailants in Peshawar took place at Police Lines.

Caretaker Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Muhammad Azam Khan, along with CCPO and other police officials, attended the funeral prayer.

The attack occurred when unknown assailants on a bike opened fire on policemen who were on their way to duty in the morning. Police constable Sarwar Shah embraced martyrdom in the incident.

The chief minister and police officials laid floral wreaths on the martyr's coffin. Prayers were offered for the elevation of the martyr's rank, and a police force rendered a salute. Chief Minister Azam Khan condemned the incident of firing on the policeman.

CS orders I-Day celebration with grandeur

LAHORE (APP): Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman on Thursday issued directions to all the deputy commissioners regarding celebrations of the Independence Day in a befitting manner.

He directed this while presiding over a high-level meeting here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed preparations to mark the Independence Day and decided that fireworks display would be held in all district

headquarters at 12 night on August 13, while concerts of national songs would be organized in all districts at 8pm on August 14.

The Chief Secretary Punjab said that freedom was a great blessing, it should be valued.

He said the purpose of celebrating Independence Day with grandeur was to make the young generation aware of the importance of freedom. He said that living nations celebrate Independence Day with great enthusiasm.

International News

Ukraine-Russia war: Putin 'considers coming face to face with world leaders' at G20 summit

MONITORING DESK MOSCOW: Russian president Vladimir Putin is considering attending the G20 summit in person, a Kremlin source has claimed.

The summit is set to take place in September in New Delhi, India, focusing on the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

But Putin hasn't ruled out his attendance, the Kremlin official told NBC News, seeking to "re-launch himself on the world stage" ahead of next year's election. Likewise, the official claimed that Putin is keen to win over countries that aren't solid in their support for Russia in its invasion of Ukraine. Af-

ter world leaders condemned Russia's war, Putin did not participate in the event in Bali in 2022. The news comes just one day after Russian president Vladimir Putin pledged to ramp up border defences following a surge in drone attacks.

Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said NATO-member Poland had already announced plans to strengthen its military, and he expected significant NATO forces and weaponry to be deployed in Finland. Russia claimed it shot down two Ukrainian drones headed for Moscow, one near a major airport to the south of the city and one to

the west of the capital. Russian president Vladimir Putin is considering attending the G20 summit in person, a Kremlin source has claimed. The summit is set to take place in September in New Delhi, India, focusing on the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future."

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India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) is seen on a television screen as he addresses the lower house Lok Sabha in New Delhi.

India PM Modi's government defeats no-confidence motion

MONITORING DESK NEW DELHI: The government of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi defeated a no-confidence motion in parliament on Thursday after a fiery speech by the premier at the climax of a three-day debate.

Opposition lawmakers — who had brought the motion over months of ethnic violence in Manipur state — walked out of the chamber, prompting a furious rebuke from the premier, with the government then winning the vote.

The walkouts, according to broadcasters, included Congress party leader Rahul Gandhi, who on Wednesday said Modi's government was "set on burning the whole country".

Modi denounced them, saying: "Those who

don't trust democracy are always ready to make a comment but don't have the patience to hear [the rebuttal]."

They would "speak ill and run away, throw garbage and run away, spread lies and run away", he added, to cheers from his own benches.

"This is their game and the country can't expect much from them."

The no-confidence vote was dismissed by the government ahead of the vote as a headline-grabbing gimmick ahead of a general election next year.

Modi's Hindu-nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has a large majority in the 543-member lower house, and is widely expected to win a third term in power.

Ecuador presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio assassinated, one suspect dead

MONITORING DESK QUITO: Ecuador presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio, a vocal critic of corruption and organised crime, was killed at a campaign event on Wednesday, authorities said, amid an upsurge in violence in the Andean nation blamed on drug traffickers.

Local media reported some 30 shots had been fired at an event in the north of the capital, Quito. Video footage posted on social media showed Villavicencio getting

into a car after the event, before the sound of apparent gunfire and screaming. Ecuador's police and Interior Ministry did not respond to repeated requests for comment about the details of the killing, but outgoing President Guillermo Lasso confirmed police safely detonated a grenade left behind by the killers. "This is a political crime, which has the character of terrorism, and we do not doubt that this murder is an attempt to sabotage the electoral process."

Hong Kong arrests 10 for 'foreign collusion' over pro democracy fund

MONITORING DESK HONG KONG: Hong Kong police arrested 10 people on Thursday under the city's national security law, accusing them of providing financial support to overseas dissident groups pushing for sanctions against the Chinese finance hub. Beijing imposed a sweeping national security law on Hong Kong in 2020 after huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests the year before.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas fires nearly all governors in West Bank in major upheaval

MONITORING DESK RAMALLAH: Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas fired most of the governors in the occupied West Bank on Thursday, responding to long-standing demands for a political shake-up as frustration grows with the semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority.

Abbas issued a decree dismissing the governors of eight provinces under Palestinian administration in the occupied territory. The upheaval included the res-

tive northern cities of Nablus, Jenin and Tulkarem, the focus of a recent surge in Palestinian militancy that has undermined the authority's leadership. Only three areas — including Ramallah, the seat of the Palestinian Authority — retained their governors. The president's office said that he would form a committee to suggest replacements.

Although the decision is unlikely to have an immediate impact on the

ground, experts said it signals Abbas' recognition of the authority's deepening unpopularity and his desire to show that he is heeding calls for change in the face of mounting difficulties. "It gives the authority a new face, which is important particularly as the governors are in charge of all security matters," said political analyst Jehad Harb. "But it won't change anything really. (Abbas) is trying to rebuild some public trust, but it will take much more."

Five Turkish soldiers killed in operations in Iraq - ministry

MONITORING DESK ANKARA: Five Turkish soldiers were killed in a clash with militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in northern Iraq, Turkey's defence ministry said on Thursday.

The conflict took place in Zap region, where Turkey has been carrying out a cross-border operation called "Claw-Lock".

Ankara says the offensive is a measure to prevent the PKK from using Iraq as a base to carry out attacks in Turkey.

A Turkish defence ministry official said all five soldiers were killed in the

first round of fire by the PKK militants while they were conducting search and scan activity on the field.

The PKK has large fortifications around the region, where "the terrain is very tough," but the region will be "cleared up from terrorists" despite attacks, the official added.

The PKK, which has bases around northern Iraq, is designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and European Union. The group launched an insurgency in southeast Turkey in 1984 in which more than 40,000 people have been killed.

Panama-flagged tanker catches fire near Iranian coast - TV

MONITORING DESK DUBAI: A Panama-flagged tanker called White Pearl has caught fire near Gulf coast, Iranian state media reported on Thursday, adding that all crew members were safe.

"Twenty-two of the ship's crew have been rescued by Iranian rescue teams after the ship's captain requested assistance from the port authorities," state TV quoted a local ports official as saying. The official said that the tanker, carrying 40,000 tons of liquefied petroleum gas, had experienced "a problem in the engine room due to a fire."

UN Security Council to meet on rights abuses in North Korea

MONITORING DESK UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council will meet publicly to discuss human rights abuses in North Korea next week, a move requested by the United States, Albania and Japan that is likely to anger Pyongyang and face opposition from China and Russia. It will be the first formal public meeting of the 15-member council on the issue since 2017.

North Korea has repeatedly rejected accusations of abuses and blames sanctions for a dire humanitarian situation. Since 2006 it has been under U.N. sanctions over its ballistic missiles and nuclear programs, but there are aid exemptions. "It is long overdue," said U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Linda Thomas-Greenfield, reading a joint statement by the United States, Albania, Japan and South Korea.

government's human rights abuses and violations facilitate the advancement of its unlawful weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile programs," she said.

The council would meet on Aug. 17 and be briefed by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk and the U.N. Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in the DPRK, Elizabeth Salmón, said Thomas-Greenfield. China and Russia object to the issue being raised in the council, which is charged with maintaining international peace and security. They say rights issues should be confined to other bodies such as the U.N. Human Rights Council or General Assembly. China and Russia could call a procedural vote next week, but a senior U.S. official said they were confident they have the minimum nine votes needed to hold the meeting.



Hong Kong arrests 10 for 'foreign collusion' over violent pro-democracy protests.

PM lauds bureaucracy for cooperation, guidance during 16-month stint

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday expressed his gratitude to the bureaucracy for their support and guidance throughout the 16-month tenure, enabling the coalition government to sail through tough circumstances.

The prime minister, in his farewell interaction with the federal secretaries, said despite being hugely diverse, the 13-party coalition government ran the affairs smoothly with utmost cooperation and prudence, also setting an example of the practicability of the coalition government.

He said during the 16 months, the bureaucracy also faced some difficult scenarios but the will to do something productive for the people of Pakistan paved the way. The prime minister lamented the past practice of unnecessarily criticizing and victimising the competent officers which adversely impacted public service. Just like the politicians, the officers were also victimised and their families harassed.

He said the civil service faced a severe blow during the devolution due to very reason, some of the youngsters also opted to join other services.

Mentioning systemic delays in the execution of 10,000MW solar energy project, Prime Minister Shehbaz called for establishing robust systems to ensure the smooth execution of projects. He said the incumbent government ensured the completion of various public welfare projects which had been halted by the previous government. Recounting the achievements of his government, the prime minister said the signing of the IMF agreement was a great success, otherwise, the situation could have been disastrous for the country.

He said the credit for all the successes achieved by the government also went to the federal secretaries as they had been serving diligently during the challenging circumstances, particularly floods. The prime minister said that his government played a constructive role to mend the ties with friendly countries which were undermined by the previous government through the "worst strategy".



LAHORE: President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo with healthcare professionals attending the Instacare Future Health Forum 2023 on Advancing Healthcare with Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.

President Alvi stresses AI importance for healthcare sector

LAHORE (APP): President Dr. Arif Alvi on Thursday emphasised the importance of artificial intelligence (AI) in the healthcare sector to provide better facilities to people.

Addressing the Instacare Future Health Forum 2023 at a local hotel, he said the AI was a great hope in the health and medicine sectors, and in future, a medical graduate could utilise it for treatment of patients.

The president said now a doctor did not need to save information in his own memory as more data could be saved and accessed through his mobile phone and computer. He cited an example of the COVID-19 pandemic period in which Pakistan successfully used available data and saved several lives. He said that the number of deaths taking place due to COVID-19 was less in the country than in other countries of the region.

He said Pakistan had a good collection of data; however, learning right question through the AI for right answer was important. He added that knowledge was free for everyone now and control over it by anyone had become almost impossible.

He said that Islam stresses the state to work for welfare and betterment of the community. The president said science had brought about an ease in lives of the community, so the AI should also be used for facilitating human beings.

Earlier, the president gave away awards to individuals and institutions, who contributed technology and AI to the healthcare sector.

Punjab Minister for Health and Social Welfare Dr Javed Akram also addressed the participants.

First Lady Begum Samina Alvi and a good number of healthcare professionals attended the forum.

KSA shows interest in investment potential of Pak mining, energy, IT sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Saudi Arabia has shown keen interest in the investment potential of Pakistan's mining, energy, agriculture, and information technology sectors.

This interest was expressed by a high-level six-member Saudi delegation led by Kingdom's Deputy Foreign Minister Waleed Al-Khuraiji, during its two-day special visit to Pakistan. The visit, concluded today, was the first one from any friendly country to promote foreign investment through the Special Investment Facilitation Council. The visit reflects a firm resolve of Saudi Arabia to invest in Pakistan.

The delegation was given a detailed briefing about the true potential of Pakistan, highlighting SIFC as a single window to facilitate foreign investment in various sectors.

During the visit, views were exchanged with the Saudi delegation on specific development projects. The delegation members appreciated the Pakistani side of benefits and their proposals about Saudi investment in various sectors of Pakistan. On the occasion, both the sides reiterated their resolve to work together to enhance bilateral cooperation in various sectors and projects.

On the conclusion of the visit, the Saudi delegation also met with Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir and discussed various matters and brotherly relations between the two countries.

The Saudi Deputy Foreign Minister said that they held fruitful discussions with the Pakistani authorities and hoped that this will continue in future as well. He further said an agreement is likely to be signed which will be beneficial for both the countries.

Waleed Al-Khuraiji reassured that the Saudi leadership, including King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud have always been a strong supporters of good relations with Pakistan.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori addressing candidates of 24th tests of IT courses at Governor House.

NCSW launches commemorative stamp on gender-based violence

ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Commission on the Status of Women (NCSW) in support of the Ministry of Human Rights & UN Women launched a commemorative postage stamp to spread awareness about gender-based violence in the country and to honour the victims.

The first session of the event was a round table consultation on the increasing incidents of violence against women issues with Chairperson NCSW, Nilofar Bakhtiar and top leading gender experts in Pakistan.

A resolution/charter of demands was then created and signed which pinpointed the mechanisms to reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence in the country which was shared with the audience at the end of the event.

The second session of the event was an art exhibition consisting of pieces of art from the NCSW poster competition held in 2021 and 2022, as well as artwork brought in by Nagin Hayat from the Nomad Gallery and the Czech Embassy.

This commemorative stamp was selected after a poster competition on ending violence against women which was held on December 2022 during the 16 Days of Activism and approved by the prime minister.

In the opening remarks of the final session of the launch stamp ceremony Chairperson Nilofar Bakhtiar welcomed the audience, "Today, we come together not only to raise our voices against these injustices but also to chart a course towards change. Strategizing the rise of violence against women requires a multi-faceted approach—one that is rooted in collaboration, education, advocacy, and policy reform."

Sharmeela Rasool, Country Representative UN Women while addressing the audience, appreciated the leadership of the Chairperson and shed light on the importance of art as a tool to combat social issues.

Outgoing NA ends remarkable term, passing 235 bills and overseeing key transitions

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 15th National Assembly of Pakistan, which came to a close on August 9, 2023, left behind a legacy of legislative productivity, executive oversight and transformative leadership changes.

With an array of accomplishments, the outgoing assembly's tenure underscores its commitment to democratic governance and national progress. During its tenure, the 15th National Assembly achieved an impressive feat by passing a total of 235 bills.

The assembly, comprising 342 members, skillfully discharged its duty of executive oversight, ensuring the effective functioning of the government. Lawmakers displayed unwavering dedication by submitting thousands of questions across various ministries, probing into critical matters affecting the nation.

Furthermore, the assembly took proactive steps towards addressing key concerns by introducing and adopting resolutions. A total of 107 resolutions were adopted, reflecting the assembly's endeavor to provide solutions to a broad spectrum of issues mainly related to governance, education, foreign affairs, health and energy.

According to the National Assembly's official website, the house witnessed the introduction of 181 government bills and 360 private member bills.

This comprehensive legislative approach highlighted the assembly's commitment to inclusivity and addressing multifaceted challenges. Notably, 12 bills were referred to the joint sitting of Parliament, demonstrating the assembly's collaborative approach to lawmaking.

The tenure of the outgoing 15th National Assembly was characterized by significant leadership shifts and milestones. The assembly played a pivotal role in the ousting of former Prime Minister Imran Khan through a motion of no-confidence passed on April 9, 2022. Subsequently, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif secured a vote of confidence, heralding a new era of leadership.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjari called on Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif.

Intervention of Ombudsman Sindh: Finance deptt releases Rs. 864 mn for payment of stipend to subject specialist internees

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan, Provincial Ombudsman Sindh expressed his satisfaction on payment of Rs. 733,548/- to Ms. Mahnoor D/o. Basharat Ali Soomro, on account of her stipend.

The above named lady filed a complaint stating that she was engaged as Internee in March 2022 for the subject of "Physics" on fixed internship allowance of Rs. 60,000/- per month and posted at Government Boys/Girls Higher Secondary School Khudeja, but despite her approaches to DEO internship allowance was not paid.

Investigation of the complaint established its genuineness and ultimately funds to the tune of Rs. 864 million were released by the Finance Department for all internees including the complainant. She offered thanks to the Ombudsman for redressal of her grievance.

Action being taken against Imran Khan by verifying the cipher: Rana Sanullah

ISLAMABAD (Online): Former Interior Minister Rana Sanullah said that American cipher that has come to light in the world media should be verified and if Imran Khan is found guilty in the cipher issue, action should be taken against him.

In his statement, PML-N leader and former Interior Minister said on issue of American cipher that an investigation should be conducted to verify American cipher revealed in international media.

He said that it should be not forgotten that copy of cipher was with Chairman PTI which he did not return and statement of Imran Khan is on record that he had lost the copy of cipher.

Rana Sanullah further said that if Chairman PTI is found guilty in this regard then he should be prosecuted under Official Secrets Act.

Court rejects bail petition of accused in girl torture case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A local court on Thursday rejected a post-arrest bail petition of accused Somalia Asim, the wife of a civil judge, in a case pertaining to torture against a minor girl.

Judicial Magistrate Shaista Kundi heard the post-arrest bail petition of the accused.

The defence lawyer said that they wanted to get the medical report obtained from a hospital in Sargodha as new clauses had been added in the FIR on the basis of it.

On the query of the judge, the lawyer said that the girl was handed over to her parents on July 23, at Skyways Bus Terminal.

Pakistani and Chinese institutes sign MoU for joint research facility

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPPCAS), and the Department of Entomology at the University of Agriculture have signed an agreement in Beijing to establish the Pakistan-China Joint Research Facility for 'Trim Brother Administration.'

The ceremony took place at IPPCAAS. The letter of intent was duly signed by IPPCAAS Executive Director Lu Yanhui and UAF Vice Chancellor Professor Dr. Iqbal Ahmad Khan, as stated in an official statement issued here, according to Gwadar Pro.

As per the agreement, both sides will establish the joint research facility to address the prevention and control of crop pests in Pakistan and China.

This collaboration involves conducting tests, demonstrations, and joint research on integrated disease control strategies for common crop ailments. It also encompasses workforce training and exchange programs.



KARACHI: Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) Spokesman, Sardar Abdul Rahim addresses to media persons during press conference, at Functional House in Karachi.

SRSO transfers 103 livestock among ultra poor BISP beneficiaries

SUKKUR (APP): The Sindh Rural Support Organization (SRSO) has transferred 103 livestock to the ultra-poor, BISP beneficiaries of different villages of districts Shikarpur under the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NPEP) - a flagship program of the Government of Pakistan, funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

It aimed to assist the ultra-poor and very poor BISP families in graduating out of poverty on a sustainable basis.

It is mentioned here that All transferred animals were vaccinated and insured as well under the Animal Death Claim Policy of SRSO's Micro Health Insurance.

On the occasion, the SRSO NPEP team briefed the beneficiaries about the program, assets care, complaint referral mechanism, and death claim policy.

According to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Muhammad Dital Khalhorho the aim of the NPEP is to assist the ultra-poor. This will be done by simultaneously improving their overall food security, nutritional status, and resilience to climate change, he said.



LARKANA: Students are being examine by doctors during the free medical camp organized by Late Dildar Ali Abbasi Welfare Trust held at Government High School Kehar in Larkana.

KU organizes seminar on 'artificial meat and the future of meat industry'

KARACHI (APP): The Department of Food Science and Technology of the University of Karachi in collaboration with Sindh Food Authority, Al-Ghazali University, and Halal Foundation organized a day-long seminar on 'artificial meat and the future of meat industry' at KU-DFST UM Hall on Thursday.

Speakers including SMHC OIC Turkey's General Secretary Ihsan Ovut, Director General Sindh Food Authority Agha Fakhir Hussain, Vice Chancellor of Al-Ghazali University Professor Dr Zeeshan Ahmed, South Africa's Grand Mufti Saeed Nowlakh, KU VC Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi and others addressed different sessions of the event. The speakers shared that every year 364 million tons of meat is consumed around the globe, including 143 million tons of chicken meat, 76 million tons of beef, and 17 million tons of mutton. They expressed that artificial meat or lab-grown meat, (cultured meat or cell-based meat) is a revolutionary innovation in the realm of sustainable food production. They observed that developed through cellular agriculture, this cutting-edge technology allows the cultivation of real meat from animal cells, without the need to raise and slaughter animals.

The speakers informed the participants that the process begins with a small sample of animal cells, which are carefully nurtured in a nutrient-rich environment. Over time, these cells multiply and differentiate into muscle tissue, mirroring the natural growth process.

Working day and night for establishment of TMCs: Naveed Khan Kolachi

Independent Report
KARACHI: A meeting of officers was held under the presidency of Transition Officer Defunct DMC East Naveed Khan Kolachi attended by Municipal Commissioner Jinnah Town, Darya Khan Pitafi, Superintending Engineer Mubeen Sheikh and other departmental officers.

On this occasion, Transition Officer Naveed Khan Kolachi said that steps are being taken for the transfer of assets in the towns, officers should finalize it immediately and complete the arrangements.

Referring to The Independence Day of Pakistan, he said that the buildings of the Defunct DMC East will be decorated within the available resources with the provision of flag hoisting on August 14.

in this time while transition period is going on we are working in available resources.

Officers of Defunct DMC East Tauqeer Abbas, Khurshed Ali, Azeem Haider, Sher Ali, Dr Zartash Parveen, Talat Shakeel, Muhammad Akram Khan, Amir Afzal and others were present in the meeting.

Dissolution of NA, federal cabinet notified

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and the Cabinet Division on Thursday notified the dissolution of the National Assembly and the Federal Cabinet, respectively.

"In pursuance of clause (1) of Article 58 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan has been pleased to dissolve the National Assembly with immediate effect," a notification issued by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs here on Thursday said.

Bushra Bibi meets Imran in Attock jail

ATTOCK (INP): Former first lady Bushra Bibi Thursday met her husband and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan in Attock jail for the first time after he got arrested on August 5 in connection with the Toshakhana case. Bushra Bibi, along with the former prime minister's lawyers, reached the Attock jail where she was allowed to meet Khan.

The one-to-one meeting between the two went on for about an hour without the ex-first lady's legal team. However, lawyers Naeem Panjtoha, Sher Afzal Marwat and Ali Ijaz Buttar did not get permission to visit the deposed prime minister who was removed from power via a parliamentary vote in April last year.