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Terms incident extremely tragic, intolerable

COAS vows to bring culprits of Jaranwala incident to justice

Gen Munir says all citizens of Pakistan are equal amongst each other irrespective of religion, gender, cast or creed

RAWALPINDI (INP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir on Thursday condemned the "extremely tragic and totally intolerable" Jaranwala incident, saying that "there is no space for such incidents of intolerance and extreme behaviour".

As per the military's media wing, General Munir made the remarks when he was asked a question about the mob that set fire to a number of churches and vandalised Christians' homes during a rampage over alleged blasphemy on Wednesday.

The mob made its way through a predominantly Christian area on the

outskirts of the industrial city of Faisalabad after allegations spread that the Holy Quran had been desecrated.

The question was asked by a "participant" during the COAS's address to the 370 students that were interns at the yearly Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Internship Programme.

"Jaranwala incident is extremely tragic and totally intolerable. There is no space for such incidents of intolerance and extreme behaviour by any segment of the society against anyone, particularly against minorities," the army chief was quoted by the ISPR as saying.

The COAS said that all citizens of the country "are equal amongst each other irrespective of religion, gender, cast or creed".

He assured that no one would be allowed to take the law into their hands and those "culpable of committing such crimes will be brought before the court of justice".

Earlier in his address, Gen Munir highlighted the "role of youth towards national development".

"Youth is the future of Pakistan, which can contribute immensely towards peace, progress and prosperity of the country," the army chief said.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori taking oath from Justice (R) Maqbool Baqar as a Caretaker Chief Minister Sindh at Governor House.

Elections to be delayed as ECP announces delimitation schedule

Entire process of delimitation will take nearly four months; ECP is bound to draw new boundaries after CCI approves new census

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has opted to initiate the delimitation of constituencies following the approval of the Council of Common Interests (CCI) for the Digital Population Census 2023 and complete the process within four months.

The decision to the effect was taken during a meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner Sikandar Sultan Raja and attended by the ECP members, secretary and other officials, a press release said. The ECP issued a notice seeking help from provincial governments and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) in the delimitation process.

According to the schedule, delimitation committees will be established

on August 21. Administrative tasks concerning delimitation will be concluded by August 31. Delimitation committees' training is scheduled for September 1 to 4. Allocation of district quotas for national and provincial assembly seats to delimitation committees will take place from September 5 to 7.

Delimitation committees will conduct the initial delineation of constituencies between September 8 and October 7. Preliminary proposals will be made public on October 9. Representations on preliminary proposals can be filed between October 10 and November 8, and the Commission will address/hear these representations from November 10 to December 9. The final delimitations will be published on December 14.

16-member caretaker federal cabinet takes oath

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday administered the oath of office to the 16-member caretaker federal cabinet.

The swearing-in ceremony was held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr that was attended by Interim Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi, politicians and prominent figures from different sectors.

The ceremony commenced with the national anthem before the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran.

Murtaza Wahab vows to take decisive action against illegal water hydrants

KARACHI (INP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab vows to take decisive action against illegal water hydrants and water connections in the city to ensure un-hindered water supply to people.

Chairing a meeting on redressal of water supply issues in Karachi, he said illegal water hydrants will be dismantled and connections will be removed.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab directed officials concerned that all water related issues in all the towns of the city will be resolved on priority basis.

Sri Lankan coast guard chief visits PMSA headquarters

KARACHI (INP): Director General Sri Lankan Coast Guard (SLCG) Rear Admiral Pujitha Vithana visited the headquarters of Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA).

The dignitary was briefed on the "Roles, Functions & Organization of PMSA", according to a news release issued by the PMSA on Thursday.

Upon his arrival, the DG SLCG was presented with the guard of honor. He then laid a wreath on PMSA's Shuhada monument and called on DG PMSA to discuss matters of mutual interest. The purpose of the visit was to enhance bilateral cooperation between the two Maritime Agencies.

MQM leader Kunwar Naveed Jameel passes away

KARACHI (INP): Kunwar Naveed Jameel, Deputy Convenor of Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), has passed away after prolonged illness.

The demise of MQM's Deputy Convenor was confirmed by party Convenor Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui, who emphasized his status as a valuable asset and senior leader within the movement.

Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui went on to underscore Kunwar Naveed's indelible contributions to both MQM and the nation, asserting that every MQM worker mourns the loss.

Justice (Rtd) Maqbool Baqir takes oath as Caretaker CM Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori on Thursday administered the oath to Caretaker chief minister of Sindh Justice (Rtd) Maqbool Baqir.

The oath-taking ceremony held at the Governor House here, said a spokesperson of the Governor House.

Judges of the Supreme Court, Consul Generals of

different countries, former federal and provincial ministers, businessmen, political and social figures, senior officers and dignitaries of the city participated in the ceremony.

On the occasion, the Governor of Sindh also congratulated Justice (Rtd) Maqbool Baqir on assuming the office of the caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman Senate Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani and Senator Danesh Kumar call on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

'Govt will strive to meet expectations of public representatives'; says PM

Says caretaker govt to facilitate free, fair election process

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that his government would make its utmost efforts to come up to the expectations of public representatives within the given short stint.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with Senate Chairman Sadiq Sanjarani here.

The Senate chairman congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office.

Prime Minister Kakar thanked Sadiq Sanjarani, who expressed the hope that the caretaker government would not only assist in holding fair elections as per public expectations but also accelerate the course of economic development.

Former PM Imran took u-turn on providing houses to displaced persons: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Thursday said former prime minister Imran Khan's led federal government had promised to provide shelter to the displaced persons of Gujjar, Mehmoodabad and Orangi Nullah but he reneged his promise as usual.

He stated this while talking to media persons here outside the Supreme Court registry after appearing in a case of rehabilitation of displaced persons.

The chief minister said Imran Khan, continued to make an announcement that his government would provide houses to all the displaced persons under 'Naya Pakistan housing scheme', but later on, he took a U-turn.

He said Imran Khan was well known for his u-turns.

Murad Ali Shah said the provincial government had been working on this sincerely since the day first.

It prepared a rehabilitation scheme of Rs 9.8 billion, he said, adding the floods of 2022 caused the lack of resources which halted the process of rehabilitation. "Today, we presented two options before the court for rehabilitation of displaced persons."

KARACHI: Former Chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah talks to media after appearing before Supreme Court.

Widow gets her pension dues on intervention of Provincial Ombudsman Sindh

Independent Report KARACHI: Mr. Ajaz Ali Khan Hon'ble Ombudsman Sindh, expressed his satisfaction on restoration of family pension and payment of Rs. 512,817/- as arrears thereof to Ms. Amnat Wd/o. Muhammad Soomar Mahar. The lady filed a complaint stating that she was getting pension through manual system and since after its conversion into Direct Credit System (DCS) in June, 2022, pension not paid to her.

The complaint was admitted and assigned to Regional Director Hyderabad, who taken up matter with the Agency. In response, Agriculture Supply & Prices Department reported that with approval of Chief Minister Sindh the pension of defunct SASO employees was being shifted from manual to Direct Credit System of pension directly from office Accountant General Sindh for which case of the complainant has also been forwarded to quarter concerned. After persuasion, the office of Accountant General Sindh reported that family pension to the complainant through DCS has been allowed and Rs. 512,817/- paid to her, which was confirmed by the widow complainant and expressed her thankfulness for providing assistance in redressal of her grievance.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi administering the oath of office to members of the caretaker Federal Cabinet, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

PPP demands timely polls, opposes ECP move to hold fresh delimitation

PTI rejects ECP decision on delimitation, set to challenge CCI decision in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD (INP): Shortly after the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) announced holding fresh delimitations, the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) on Thursday opposed the decision, saying drawing new boundaries of constituencies is not a "constitutional requirement".

The electoral author-

ity has announced that new delimitations will be carried out across the country on the basis of a new census approved by the Council of Common Interest (CCI) meeting last month, meaning the general elections in the country will be delayed beyond its 90 days constitutional requirement.

The ECP schedule

showed that fresh delimitation will take nearly four months, to be held from September 8 to October 7, as per the electoral body's schedule. Reacting to the ECP's announcement, PPP spokesperson Faisal Karim Kundi said the party has been demanding elections to be held as per the Constitution.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir addresses to the 370 students that were interns at the yearly Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Internship Programme.

Karachi Police chief chairs meeting regarding improvement in investigation department

KARACHI (APP): Additional Inspector General of Police - Karachi Javed Alam Odho on Thursday chaired an important meeting regarding improvement and innovation in investigation department of police.

During the meeting, the progress of high-profile and other serious cases was carefully reviewed and a comprehensive strategy was formulated, said a news release.

The Additional IGP Karachi pointed out the shortcomings in the investigation of the cases and gave instructions to carry out a comprehensive and effective investigation process as per the modern require-

ments. He instructed to ensure the identification parade of the arrested accused and timely availability of CCTV footage.

The city police chief also ordered for timely payments of cost of investigation officers and to ensure presence of Crime Scene Unit at the crime scene.

He also asked to reward the officers with better performance and to initiate strict departmental proceedings against the ones with poor performance. All Zonal DIGPs, DIGP - CIA, district SSPs, SPs Investigation and other senior police officers attended the meeting.

Imtiaz Shaikh hopes PPP to emerge victorious in general elections

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) leader and former provincial minister Imtiaz Ahmed Shaikh has expressed the hope that general elections would be held on time and PPP would emerge as victorious.

In a statement issued here on Thursday, Shaikh said PPP has no competitor in Sindh because it believes in performance and not

in promises. He said that if the election was held in a transparent manner, PPP would win with two third majority from Karachi.

Imtiaz Shaikh said Pakistan People's Party will serve the people after get elected in the next general elections and the journey of construction and development will be started in the province once again.

Murtaza Solangi assumes charge as Interim Information Minister



ISLAMABAD (APP): Murtaza Solangi on Thursday assumed charge as Interim Minister for Information and Broadcasting.

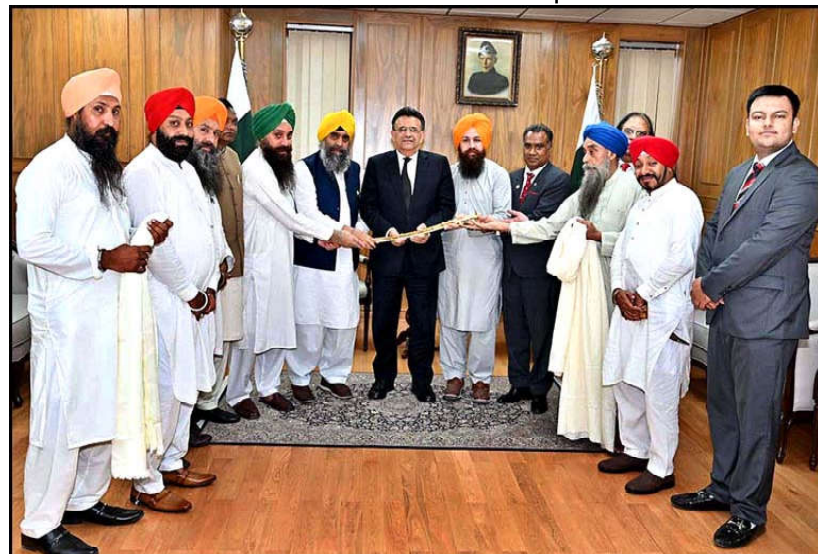
Sikh delegation calls on him State responsible for protection of minorities' rights: CJP

ISLAMABAD (APP): An eight-member delegation of the Sikh community on Thursday paid a courtesy call on Chief Justice of Pakistan Umar Ata Bandial.

The delegation was headed by Implementation Minority Rights Forum Chairman Samuel Payara and comprising Baba Makhan Singh, Baba Gural Singh, Dr Sahib Singh, Sardar Bishan Singh, Amrik Singh, Kaka Singh, Sataam Singh and Dharam Singh, said a press release.

The CJP welcomed the delegates and felicitated them on the Minorities Day. He briefed them about the rights of minorities as enshrined in

the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, 1973. He further said that in Pakistan, every citizen had the right to profess and practice their respective faiths. The chief justice termed the courts in Pakistan the custodian of the fundamental rights of the people, which had always been cognizant of the rights of minorities and had delivered judgments to enforce, implement and address issues faced by the minorities in the country. Considerable strides had been made to safeguard the religious properties of the minorities, in particular the Christian and Hindu communities, he added.



ISLAMABAD: A delegation of Minorities representatives presenting a souvenir to the Hon'ble Chief Justice of Pakistan Mr. Justice Umar Ata Bandial at the Supreme Court of Pakistan.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Faisalabad rampage

Unless both state and society decide on a practical way of tackling extremism, and go beyond clichés and condemnations, the monster of obscurantism will continue to devour Pakistan's vitals.

Another shameful incident was witnessed on Wednesday in Faisalabad's Jaranwala area when a mob torched several churches, ransacked Christian homes and vandalised a graveyard. The apparent provocation for this assault was blasphemy, as the house of a Christian man allegedly involved in the offence was razed.

Clearly, in Pakistan, evidence is not required where the issue of blasphemy is concerned, and mobs take it upon themselves to dispense 'justice'. This is the second such event in recent days; just a few days ago, a teacher in Balochistan was murdered because of blasphemy allegations against him.

There has been the usual round of denunciation by the political elite, including the interim prime minister. Yet the question is: do the rulers — politicians and establishment — as well as clerics and prominent society figures have the courage to confront this madness? Past precedents do not inspire confidence as murders, riots and lynchings in 'defence' of religion testify.

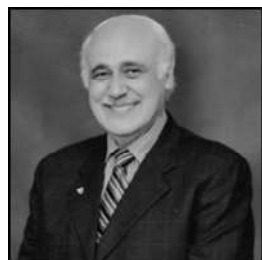
This is not a situation that developed overnight; it has been decades in the making. For over 40 years, the state has itself been either promoting obscurantism, or using sectarian and religious fanatics as proxies. The result of these failed policies is before us, as these same forces have now begun to influence the general populace by framing the narrative.

Our power elite has been silent as blasphemy laws have been misused to settle personal scores, occupy property, or terrorise minorities. In fact, the last parliament had tried to bulldoze, without any proper debate, an amendment that would have 'strengthened' the blasphemy law.

Can we then complain if episodes such as Jaranwala unfold with disturbing regularity? Violence in the name of religion is indefensible in any context, but in Pakistan, the blasphemy laws have been misused with impunity by vested interests.

However, it is also true that in the 'civilised' West, the appalling trend to attack the sacred symbols of Islam feeds into a vicious circle of bigotry and Islamophobia. In fact, extremists, such as the ones involved in the Jaranwala outrage, use these despicable acts to point out the hatred the 'Christian' West allegedly harbours towards Islam, and channel their vitriol at local minority communities.

The fact is that both in the West and in Muslim states, efforts need to be intensified to counter the forces of religious bigotry. The attacks on Islam's sacred symbols — indeed, the revered symbols of all faiths — in the West must stop, while Pakistani society must bring to justice all involved in such grotesque violence, and begin an internal reckoning that exorcises the demons of obscurantism tearing this country apart.



F.S. Aijazuddin

The US astronaut John Glenn — the first human to orbit the earth — was once asked how he felt hurtling through space in a capsule. His trenchant reply was: "How would you feel travelling in a machine assembled from 150,000 pieces of equipment, each procured by NASA from the lowest bidder?" Over 200 million Pakistanis today are reliving his apprehensions. They are orbiting in a political void, led by a caretaker prime minister chosen from among the lowest political denominations.

Following the National Assembly dissolution on Aug 9, it took three days for Shehbaz Sharif (representing the outgoing government) and Raja Riaz Ahmad Khan (the still thrashing tail of a PTI opposition) to propose a name for the post of caretaker PM to an impatient president.

Names proffered by Sharif and Raja Riaz were unacceptable to the other. The person finally proposed to the president (and approved by him with alacrity) was Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar, a comparatively unknown politician from Balochistan.

Raja Riaz justified the choice, saying: "We had earlier decided that the caretaker PM should be someone from a smaller province and a non-controversial personality. Our aim was to remove the sense of deprivation in small provinces."

Raja Riaz, a Punjabi, should have been more circumspect. Balochistan is the largest of Pakistan's provinces. Geographically, it is one and half times the size of Punjab, two and half

Flying solo

times the size of Sindh, and five times the size of KP. It is not small. It may have less of a population than the others but it deserves fraternal respect, not gratuitous condescension.

No one would doubt that the new caretaker PM is non-controversial. He owes his nomination to an establishment that breeds a stable of dark horses. The last such unexpected entrant was Usman Buzdar, former Punjab chief minister, appointed by then PM Imran Khan. In 2018, he appeared out of nowhere, survived in office for over 43 months until 2022, and then disappeared unlamented into oblivion.

No sooner had Kakar's nomination been announced than his fellow politician from Balochistan Akhtar Mengal, chairman, Ba-lochistan National Party-Mengal, shot a letter of remonstrance above the head of Shehbaz Sharif to his elder brother Nawaz Sharif in London. Mengal complained: "You have designated an individual as the caretaker prime minister whose appointment has shut the doors of politics for us." He added more pointedly: "A solution is being sought by consulting the establishment instead of politicians."

He reminded the elder Sharif — less in anger than frustration — of the 'oppression' suffered by the Baloch at the hands of military-led administrations from Gen Ayub to Gen Musharraf, which had not been forgotten nor, it would appear, forgiven.

History has a longer memory than politicians from Punjab. Mengal served as Balochistan's ninth CM from February 1997 to June 1998, 10 years before Kakar entered politics. Seen as a militant Baloch, Mengal's provincial loyalties attracted suspicion. He complained in an interview in 2013: "The Baloch militants consider me a traitor while the security establishment also treats me as an enemy."

Mengal will not receive a reply from Nawaz Sharif. Like the astronaut John Glenn, Sharif's prime concern is a safe re-entry.

Will Nawaz Sharif be welcomed by the very establishment that aborted his three earlier prime ministerships? Will he want to forgo the comforts of Avenfield House in London for the sweat, dust and drudgery of an election campaign in an insolvent Pakistan? Will his younger brother Shehbaz Sharif be content to play second fiddle after he has enjoyed being the master of his own one-man band in Islamabad? In the closing days of the last go-vernment, Shehbaz admitted to having a close working relationship with the establishment. This came as no revelation. Five years ago, in 2018, he had told the Financial Times: "Where the military leadership needs to be consulted, we will consult them." And he did not mean only on military or security-related matters.

A younger generation of voters might have noticed the last speech Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari made in parliament. Stressing the need for "political unity and reconciliation", he appealed to key political figures, including his father Asif Ali Zardari and Nawaz Sharif, "to make decisions that would help create a conducive political environment, notably for Maryam Nawaz and himself". His conciliatory speech was intended "to calm contending kings". His entrenched elders though might construe it as premature patricide. Today, Pakistan's political future is again up in the air. No one knows for sure when elections will be held. Probably next year. However, those who have watched Shehbaz Sharif's self-laudatory leave-taking can fore-see the result. He intends to return as PM and then fly solo for at least five years. -- Courtesy Dawn

Young workers



Shazia Nizamani

The case of 13-year-old Rizwana, who was brutally tortured by her employer, the wife of a civil judge, in Islamabad, is a reminder of the despicable acts of violence and abuse perpetrated on our young domestic workers who are still minors. The girl is still receiving medical care. A case against her employer was registered only after a hue and cry was raised on social and mainstream media. Even judges were seen to come to the rescue of their fellow judge's wife by granting bail to the suspect.

Earlier this year, an 11-year-old domestic worker was killed by his employer in Karachi. The victim had been working with his two brothers in Karachi to support his family back in Tharparkar. After the horrible death of their youngest son, the family found out that all three had been subjected to inhumane torture and violence. Some years ago, 10-year-old Tayyaba was physically and mentally tortured for months by her employers — an additional sessions judge and his wife. Due to media coverage and public pressure, the authorities took action. Although the Islamabad High Court had increased the initial sentence of the culprits to a maximum of three years, the apex court restored the lesser sentence.

It is uncertain if Rizwana's tormentors will be brought to justice because our rotten criminal justice system hardly works for the underprivileged and disadvantaged as it does for the privileged class.

Undoubtedly, it is

poverty that compels parents to send their minor children to work instead of letting them enjoy their childhood. Poor households send their children for domestic work to make both ends meet or to pay off family debts. There is also social acceptance of child labour in our society, so well-off families hire children, paying them a meagre amount. Thus the general public and families of domestic workers don't understand how harmful child labour is and the life-long impact of the attendant physical and psychological violence.

In 2004, the ILO estimated that 264,000 children in the country were engaged in domestic labour. Meanwhile, it was also estimated that in 2004, 80 per cent of children engaged in domestic labour worked to support their families, while 14pc worked to pay off family debts.

According to the ILO, child labour is "work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children and/or interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely, or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work". ILO and other reports indicate that 93pc of children "engaged in child labour in domestic work in 2021", most of them girls.

In 2011, the ILO adopted the Domestic Workers Convention which, among other things, requires countries to set a "minimum age for domestic workers consistent with the provisions of the Minimum Age Convention ... and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention". The latter convention considers "work under particularly difficult conditions such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unrea-

sonably confined to the premises of the employer" to be hazardous. Based on these criteria, child labour in domestic work could be considered and addressed as hazardous work.

Some 30-odd countries have adopted the Domestic Workers' Convention but Pakistan is not among them, though it is a signatory to eight international treaties directly related to labour rights, including the rights of children.

The Constitution guarantees the rights of children. Article 11 prohibits the involvement of children younger than 14 years old in work. Article 25-A affirms that the state must provide free and compulsory education to all children aged five to 16 years.

The Ministry of Human Rights, the National Commission of Rights of Child (NCRC), the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation and the provincial child protection bureaus have an obligation to enforce policy frameworks and laws on child labour. The NCRC has a dedicated complaint cell. But there is hardly any awareness about such services and laws at the public level. Unfortunately, the monitoring, implementation and accountability mechanisms of these institutions are very weak, and there is a lack of coordination and collaboration among them where child labour in domestic work is concerned. Awareness must be created in communities that child labour in domestic work is illegal and unconstitutional.

The power of social media can be utilised for raising awareness about child rights, the available social protection measures and existing laws. Pressure should be put on the state by civil society and child rights organisations to ensure protection for children. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt to ensure full use of SIFC forum for economic development: Kakar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the government would ensure full use of the forum of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to carry forward the development agenda.

Termining the SIFC a ray of hope for Pakistan's economic development, the prime minister said the government would focus on development of different sectors under the Council's umbrella.

Addressing a meeting held here in connection with the working of SIFC, Prime Minister Kakar said the caretaker government

during its short tenure would fully devote all its energies to the stability and progress of the economy.

He directed to harmonize the regulatory structure with the contemporary international requirements to improve the energy sector.

He said Pakistan had vast potential for foreign investment in the fields of agriculture, mining and minerals, information technology, energy and defence production.

During the meeting, Secretary SIFC Jahanzeb Khan and Secretary Implementation Jameel Ahmed Qureshi briefed

the prime minister about the steps taken to bolster foreign direct investment.

PM Kakar was also apprised about the whole of government approach under SIFC to increase the foreign investment by facilitating investors.

The meeting was further informed that under the forum, the government would provide one window facility to the investors for different projects.

The prime minister appreciated the efforts of Jahanzeb Khan and Jameel Ahmed Qureshi for bringing investment in the country, adding the SIFC would play a vital role in improving the economy.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar getting briefing about steps taken to bolster Foreign Direct Investment by SIFC officials.

Sino-Pak joint venture set to start production of electric rickshaws

BEIJING (APP): In a development for Pakistan's transportation sector, a joint venture between Chinese and Pakistani companies is set to commence production of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, commonly known as rickshaws in the country.

The collaboration is expected to bring about positive changes in the local market, reducing carbon emissions and promoting eco-friendly transportation options.

The joint venture was formed in April by Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer Benling

Group, Chinese battery manufacturer Dongjin Group and Pakistani auto company Crown Group to leverage their expertise to introduce cutting-edge electric mobility solutions to the Pakistani market.

Two-wheelers and three-wheelers are widely used in Pakistan for public transportation and are a vital part of the country's mobility ecosystem. By electrifying this segment, the vehicles to be produced here are expected to address the growing demand for efficient and environmentally friendly transportation options in densely populated urban areas,

where traffic congestion and air pollution have become major concerns. In a recent interview with China Economic Net, Hu Ge, General Manager of Dongjin Pakistan noted that "it is expected that the first batch of materials, batteries and equipment for the production of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers will arrive in Pakistan after customs clearance next week. We are excited about the launch of the first batch of electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers manufactured by our joint venture late this month or in early September."

PBF calls for the revival of sick industries in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Vice Chairman, Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Muhammad Ashfaq Paracha on Thursday urged the authorities concerned to take effective measures to revive sick industries and also solve the problems being faced by the industrialists in the province.

He said that steps should be taken to resolve the issues of the industrialists in the industrial estates falling under the KP Economic Zones Development and Management Company and the Small Industries Development Board as well.

The PBF Vice Chairman was given a detailed briefing by the Nowshera Industrial Zone.

Shipping Activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Wide Juliet, Maersk Pelapas, Asphalt Alliance, Lamiki, IMKE Selmar and Al-Jassasiya, are scheduled to load/offload Container, Bitumen, Palm oil, Coal and LNG berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Liquid Terminal, Bulk Terminal and Engro Terminal respectively on Wednesday. Meanwhile, three more ships, New Liberty, Elka Athina and Hafnia Caterina scheduled to load/offload Com.

Railways earn over 5mln from salons in last three years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways has generated revenue worth Rs 5,269,315 through utilizing its 23 salons and inspection coaches for commercial purposes, during the last three years.

"At present, Pakistan Railways has only 23 salons and inspection coaches with different dignitaries of the country who are entitled to use these salons

when needed," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP on Thursday. Giving the details, he said, "Two highly luxurious coaches have been allocated for the Prime Minister's Secretariat while four coaches have been allocated for the Minister for Railways, Secretary/Chairman of Railways, and another senior official in the ministry."

Rupee gains 02 paise against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Thursday gained 02 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs294.91 against the previous day's closing of Rs294.93.

However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs302 and Rs304 respectively.

Kyrgyz company sees promising investment opportunities in food sector

ISLAMABAD (APP): A visiting delegation of Kyrgyzstan business community on Thursday described Pakistan as a promising destination for investment, especially in the food sector.

Zhumadil Egemberdiev, who is heading the delegation of a company "Shoro," expressed keen interest to explore potential investment avenues and collaborations within Pakistan's vibrant food industry, particularly in the Punjab province.

Talking to Chairman Kyrgyzstan Trade House and Coordinator to Federal Tax Ombudsman Meher Kashif Younis, he stressed

the need for focusing on a mutual goal of fostering economic growth and enhancing bilateral ties.

He said recognizing the abundant resources, skilled workforce, and growing consumer demand within Pakistan, Kyrgyz businessmen were enthusiastic about the prospect of joint ventures and partnerships that could drive innovation, employment opportunities, and market expansion. Zhumadil Egemberdiev said the food industry, being an essential component of both countries' economies, offered a plethora of opportunities for collaboration.



MULTAN: Deputy Managing Director Muhammad Shahid Punjab Small Industry distributes souvenirs among the participants during glass cut work competition organized by Punjab Small Industry at Tea House.

SCCI chief invites Belgium investors to invest in KP's important sectors

PESHAWAR (APP): Acting President of Sarhad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), Ijaz Khan Afridi invited Belgium companies to make investments in mines, minerals and other important sectors in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Prospects of enhancing mutual trade ties between Pakistan and Belgium are brighter, said Ijaz Afridi while speaking to members during a visit of the Ambassador of

Belgium in Pakistan, Charles Delogne here at the Chamber's House on Thursday.

The SCCI's acting president Commercial Attaché of the Belgium Embassy in Islamabad, Abid Hussain, Trade Officer Shoukat Niazi, Former presidents of the Chambers Zulfikar Ali Khan, Sherbaz Bilour, former vice president Malik Niaz Muhammad, members of the executive committee of the SCCI Naem Qasmi, Kashif Amin.



LAHORE: A delegation of industrialists and businessmen meeting with Provincial Minister Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Taveer.

Jaranwala incident a matter of grave concern: Ahsan Iqbal

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N Secretary General and former Federal Minister Ahsan Iqbal strongly condemned the incident of Jaranwala and said that there is no room for making factions in Islamic state. Ahsan Iqbal said in a statement on social media that heartbreaking incidents in Jaranwala are matter of concern for us. Certain religious groups have freely used religion to create fanaticism among people for political purposes. Ahsan Iqbal said that torching the places of worship of other religion is no service to deen. There are laws and courts in the country.

Former Federal Minister said that one cannot take law in hands as there is law for every crime. He said that if a minority in Pakistan considers itself insecure, this idea will be negation of ideology of Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal said that Christian community fully participated in Pakistan Movement by voting for Pakistan. Christian community is as much part of Pakistan as Muslims, he added. He said that Pakistan is a bouquet in which all flowers have to be put together to make it beautiful. We all have to live and settle in harmony and unity. This is the teaching of our religion.

He further said that the events of Manipur in India were drawing the attention of world to mistreatment of minorities in India before this incident. This incident turned media towards Pakistan. Ahsan Iqbal said that Christian community fully participated in Pakistan Movement by voting for Pakistan. Christian community is as much part of Pakistan as Muslims, he added. He said that Pakistan is a bouquet in which all flowers have to be put together to make it beautiful. We all have to live and settle in harmony and unity. This is the teaching of our religion.



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Alfred Grannas visits the displayed artwork during a book launching ceremony on Landmarks of Pakistan Drawings by Ute Elpers German porcelain painter compiled by Shahid Kamal/Folker Falsse/Farrar Mahmood at PNCA.

Nawaz Sharif to return to Pakistan in third week of September: Senator Irfan

ISLAMABAD (Online): PML-N senator Irfan Siddiqui has said Nawaz Sharif will return to Pakistan in the third week of September and he will run election campaign. "Former Prime Minister (PM) Nawaz Sharif thinks election will be held this year. He wants there should be no delay in election, he said this while talking to a private TV channel here Thursday. When government is ready to go then it remembers several forgotten things, he held. I had said too much haste is not good

in connection with bill. Too much bills come in haste then their drafts are not mulled over, he stated. What bills came they were needed, he pointed out. These were PDMs bills and not of PML-N bills, he observed. These people took part in the meetings in connection with preparations of bills and signed them. He disclosed his bill is missing since 14 months. This bill was my property. I wrote a letter to speaker on August 10 and no response has been received so far.



KARACHI: Bishop Frederick John, Diocese of Sindh and Balochistan Church of Pakistan, gestures while addressing a press conference following the attacks on churches and houses in Jaranwala town of Faisalabad, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral.

Influential Pir Asad handed over to police on Physical remand

SUKKUR (APP): The Khairpur on Thursday granted a four-day physical remand of Pir Asad Shah Jilani, a member of the influential Pirs of Ranipur, in a case pertaining to the alleged torture of an underage domestic worker in Rani Pur. The prime suspect Pir Asad Shah Jilani was arrested by the Khairpur Police after he was accused of torturing his 10-year-old maid Fatima Furiro to death. The suspect was produced before Judicial Magistrate Sobho Dero as police sought 15-day physical remand of the accused. The magistrate police plea and send the accused to jail on 4-day physical remand. The issue initially came to light after video clips of Fatima's body bearing severe torture marks went viral on social media. In the video, the seriously injured girl is seen struggling to sit up on her bed but soon collapses. At first, the victim's parents declared it a 'natu-

ral death' despite clear signs of violence on the body in the video. The parents said in their statement that they had sent the girl for work but she was not tortured to death. Later talking to local media, the housemaid's mother said that her daughter, Fatima Furiro, was killed by Ranipur's peers (spiritual leaders) adding that they had sent the girl to Pir Fayyaz Shah and she was employed at Peer Asad Shah House 9 months ago. It is mentioned over here that the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Sukkur Javed Sonharo Jiskani constituted a three-member committee to probe the case. The DIG Sukkur directed the committee to register a case against the accused involved in torturing the 10-year-old maid to death. Later, SSP Khairpur Mir Rohail Khoso said that the prime suspect identified as Asad Shah - involved in torturing the maid has been arrested.

Karachi police arrest drug, gutka supplier

KARACHI (INP): District Keamari police on Thursday conducted a targeted operation, arrested two accused, recovering a large quantity of drugs from their possession. According to the Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Keamari, the suspects were involved in several drug smuggling bids including inter-provincial drug smuggling and supplying gutka, mawa to various locations, adding that one of the arrested accused brought drugs from Quetta in a bus and reached site area. "As many as 5015 grams of hashish has been recovered from the accused, identified as Chakar Khan," SSP stated. In another incident, a gutka supplier from Hub River Road has been detained, the accused was arrested while transporting gutka in a Rikshaw. Two accomplices of the accused Shamsullah and Ziauddin escaped from the spot, while 225 packets of Mawa, 20250 Indian Gutka have been recovered from the accused.

Ombudsman to hold open court on Aug 23

LARKANA (APP): On the special instructions of the Provincial Ombudsman of Sindh, the Regional Director Provincial Ombudsman Larkana Ali Akbar Jagirani will hold an open court at District Accounts Office Kamber on August 23. The Regional Director would listen to complaints of government employees, retired employees and pensioners and issue directives for resolving them. The cases pending in the district accounts office of Kamber-Shahdadkot civil servants and the general public, their remaining arrears and other matters will be resolved by consid-

eration. Those making applications and complaints about the District Accounts Office are advised to attend the open call with their necessary documents. The district accounts officer Larkana have been directed to complete the necessary arrangements in that regard. The Regional Director Ombudsman Larkana will send his report to the Provincial Ombudsman Sindh after the open court. However, the concerned officials of the District Accounts Office have also been directed to attend the open court.

Syrus Sajjad Qazi appointed foreign secretary

ISLAMABAD (Online): Syrus Sajjad Qazi has been appointed as the 32nd Foreign Secretary of Pakistan. He replaces Ambassador Asad Majeed Khan who retires from government service upon attaining superannuation. Consultation has been completed in connection with care taker federal cabinet. According to sources Jalil Abbas Jilani and Sarfaraz Bugti are likely to be given portfolios of care taker foreign minister and caretaker interior minister respectively. Defence analyst Syed Muhammad Ali is likely to be made care taker information minister.

Isra University, ORIC organise a session on "CV/Resume Writing & Interviewing Tips"

HYDERABAD (APP): Isra University, Hyderabad in collaboration with the Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) arranged a session focused on "CV/Resume Writing & Interviewing Tips". The event was held at the esteemed Isra University Auditorium (Block-A) here today. The session commenced on a respectful

note, with a solemn recitation of the Holy Quran by Dr. Mufti Hafiz Jahanzeb Rana, creating an atmosphere of mindfulness and focus. Following this, the welcome address was eloquently delivered by Prof. Dr. Nazir Ashraf Laghari, Vice Chancellor of Isra University. His words infused the gathering with inspiration and set a promising tone for the day.

Speaking on occasion he said that ISRA University nurtured holistic development and prepared students for success in their professional endeavours. The partnership with ORIC underscores the institution's dedication to equipping future leaders with the skills and knowledge needed to excel. Mohammad Nabeel Khan, Deputy Director of

ORIC was the esteemed resource person of the session. His profound insights and expertise provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of effective communication through CVs/Resume, Cover Letter writing, and the art of interviewing. Mohammad Nabeel Khan's influential words resonated deeply with the

attendees, inspiring them to approach their career pursuits with renewed determination and skill. Zaid Ahmed Laghari (Managing Director), Engr. Daud Amir Channa (Director ORIC), Mouladad Awan (Campus Administrator), and Mohammad Rizwan Khan (Additional Registrar), large number of students and others attended the session.

International News

Iran FM touts unity on first Saudi visit since ties restored

Monitoring Desk RYADH: Iran's top diplomat preached unity and dialogue during a visit to Saudi Arabia on Thursday, his first since the two Middle East rivals announced a surprise rapprochement in March. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian also took the opportunity to reiterate the Islamic Republic's support for the Palestinian cause at a time when Riyadh is in discussions with the United States about potentially normalising ties with Israel. Ties between Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia and Shiite-majority Iran "are progressing in the right direction," Amir-Abdollahian told reporters at a press

conference with his Saudi counterpart Prince Faisal bin Farhan, touting economic and security cooperation without announcing any new agreements. Thursday's meeting in the Saudi foreign ministry's Islamic Solidarity Hall "will be a prelude to the meeting of the heads of the two countries", he added, without specifying when President Ibrahim Raisi would visit Saudi Arabia at King Salman's invitation. "We are sure that these meetings and cooperation will help the unity of the Islamic world." The foreign ministers did not take questions. The two countries severed ties in 2016 after

Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran were attacked during protests over Riyadh's execution of Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr. But in March, a China-brokered deal saw the long-time rivals agree to restore diplomatic relations and reopen their respective embassies. Earlier this month, Iran said the Saudi embassy in Tehran had begun operations, but Riyadh has yet to confirm this or announce an ambassador of its own.



Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian (L) and his Saudi counterpart Faisal bin Farhan hold a joint press conference in Riyadh.

BRICS nations to meet in South Africa seeking to blunt Western dominance

Monitoring Desk JOHANNESBURG: BRICS leaders meet in South Africa next week to discuss how to turn a loose club of nations accounting for a quarter of the global economy into a geopolitical force that can challenge the West's dominance in world affairs. Russian President Vladimir Putin, who faces an international arrest warrant over alleged war crimes in Ukraine, will not join leaders from Brazil, India, China and South Africa amid rifts over whether to expand the bloc to include dozens of "Global South" nations queuing up to join. South Africa will host

Chinese President Xi Jinping, Brazil's Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the BRICS summit from August 22 to 24. Spread over the globe and with economies that operate in vastly different ways, the main thing uniting the BRICS is scepticism about a world order they see as serving the interests of the United States and its rich-country allies who promote international norms they enforce but don't always respect. Few details have emerged about what they plan to discuss, but expansion is expected to be high on the agenda, as some 40 nations have shown interest in joining, either formally

or informally, according to South Africa. They include Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Egypt. "BRICS AND AFRICA" China, seeking to expand its geopolitical influence as its tussles with the United States, wants to enlarge BRICS quickly, while Brazil is resisting expansion, fearing the already unwieldy club could see its stature diluted by it. In a written response to Reuters questions, China's foreign ministry said it "supports progress in expanding membership, and welcomes more like-minded partners to join the 'BRICS family' at an early date."

Biden hopes to tighten South Korean, Japanese bond at Camp David

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: When Yoon Suk Yeol this week commemorated his country's 1945 independence from Japan, the South Korean president didn't dwell on the brutal 35-year occupation his people endured under their neighbor. Instead, the 62-year-old leader, too young to remember the humiliations of Japanese rule, celebrated the country as a "partner" that now shares the same values and interests. Facing nuclear threats from North Korea - a constant worry for both Seoul and Tokyo - Yoon reserved his condemnation

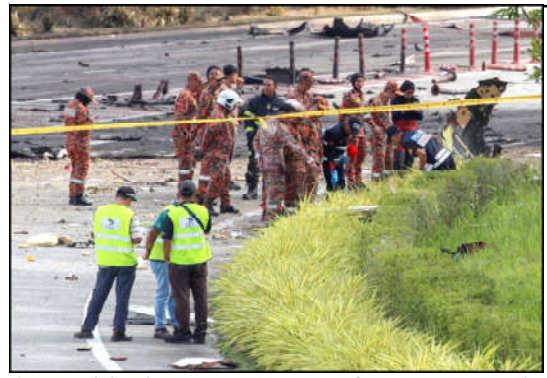
for "Communist aggression." The Biden administration believes that a seismic but fragile realignment is underway in East Asia: a deeper relationship between two close US allies with a long history of mutual acrimony and distrust. The change would accelerate Washington's effort to counter China's influence in the region and help it defend Taiwan. US President Joe Biden hopes to cement those ties with a summit at Camp David, the storied presidential retreat in Maryland's Catoctin Mountains, this Friday.



Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida waves as he gets on an airplane at the Haneda international airport in Tokyo.

Militia fighting leaves 55 dead, 146 wounded in Libya

Monitoring Desk TRIPOLI: Tripoli's worst armed clashes in a year have killed 55 people and wounded 146, Libyan media reported on Wednesday, before a truce took hold in the capital and air traffic was restored. Fighting between the influential 444 Brigade and the Al-Radaa, or Special Detachment Force, two of the myriad of militias that have vied for power since the 2011 overthrow of Muammar Qadhafi, erupted on Monday night and raged through Tuesday. The clashes with rocket launchers and machine-guns followed the detention of the 444 Brigade head, Colonel Mahmud Hamza, by the rival Al-Radaa Force on Monday, an interior ministry official said. Al-Ahrar TV updated the death toll to 55, citing Malek Mersit, spokesman for the emergency medical centre that handles emergency response in the country's west. In August last year, 32 people were killed and 159 wounded in Tripoli during battles between divided Libya's two rival administrations. The country has seen more than a decade of stop-start conflict since the Nato-backed revolt that toppled Qadhafi. A period of relative stability had led the United Nations to express hope for delayed elections to take place this year.



Authorities inspect the scene of a plane crash in Shah Alam, Malaysia.

US beefs up Gulf deployment over Iran oil tanker threat

Monitoring Desk MANAMA: As Iranian seizures threaten oil tankers plying the Gulf, the United States is raising its military presence - a move long demanded by Gulf Arab states who accused Washington of retreating from the region. Three thousand additional US personnel on troop-landing warships have already passed through the Red Sea, and US-led maritime forces are

warning ships against approaching Iranian waters. The moves follow a spate of capture and attempted capture of ships in and around the Strait of Hormuz, the U-shaped gateway to the Gulf of Oman and Arabian Sea that carries a fifth of world oil output. "There is a heightened threat, a heightened risk to regional mariners in terms of seizures" by Iran in the strait.

Around 45,000 Muscovites fight in Ukraine: mayor

Monitoring Desk MOSCOW: Tens of thousands of Muscovites are taking part in combat operations in Ukraine, the Russian capital's mayor Sergei Sobyenin said on Wednesday, giving a rare estimate of the forces deployed. Russia and Ukraine rarely communicate on the total number of troops involved in the conflict, or on their respective losses. "Forty-five thousand Muscovites are fighting in the area of the special mili-

Small aircraft carrying 8 people crashes in Malaysia

Monitoring Desk KUALA LUMPUR: A small aircraft crashed in Malaysia's Selangor state with eight people on board on Thursday, the country's civil aviation authority said. The condition of the six passengers and two crew on board the Beechcraft Model 390 (Premier 1) aircraft could not immediately be confirmed and a search and rescue mission was underway, the civil aviation chief said in a statement.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing a seminar on "Insurance Ombudsman and Concept of Speedy Justice at the Doorstep", at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Jaranwala incident Muslim-Christian leaders demand swift justice for perpetrators

LAHORE (APP): Prominent Muslim-Christian leaders Thursday united in demanding swift justice for the perpetrators behind the tragic incident in Jaranwala, which involved the desecration of places of worship. A delegation of Muslim scholars, led by Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, visited Saint Anthony Catholic Church here and extended an olive branch to the Christian leaders and people, seeking forgiveness for the disrespectful act that has deeply disturbed the entire nation. Addressing a presser, the Muslim-Christian leaders, including Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, Archbishop Sebastian Shah, Pastor Emmanuel Khokhar, Pastor Saleem, Maulana Nauman Hashir, Maulana Muhammad Shafi Qasmi, Maulana Asadullah Farooq, Maulana Zubair Abid, Maulana Muhammad Ashfaq Pitafi, Maulana Tahir Aqeel Awan, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Siddiqui, Qari Abdul Hakeem Athar, Maulana Muhammad Aslam Qadri, Mufti Naseem Islam, Maulana Qari Mubashir Rahimi and others said the incident had not only strained interfaith relations but also cast a dark shadow over the country's reputation. They said a nationwide day of mourning would be observed on August 18 to express collective condemnation and solidarity, urging the government to provide compensation for the losses, besides reconstruction of the damaged worship places. The Muslim religious leaders said the heinous act in Jaranwala was unequivocally condemned in Friday sermons in mosques across the country.



ISLAMABAD: German Ambassador Alfred Grammas and President of German-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Pervaiz Akhtar in a group photo with the dignitaries during a book launching ceremony on Landmarks of Pakistan Drawings by Ute Elpers German porcelain painter compiled by Shahid Kamal/Folker Falste/Farrah Mahmood at PNCA.

PNS SAIF visits Dubai for regional maritime security patrol deployment

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) SAIF visited Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) during deployment on Regional Maritime Security Patrol on Thursday. Upon arrival, Pakistan Navy Ship was received by Defence Attaché of Pakistan at Abu Dhabi and Senior Officials of UAE Navy, a Pakistan Navy news release said. During the port visit, Commanding Officer of PNS SAIF called-on Deputy Commander UAE Naval Forces and other senior Officials of UAE Navy. During the interactions, matters of mutual interests were discussed and enhancement of bilateral ties in all spheres was reaffirmed. The Commanding Officer of PN ship conveyed well wishes from Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi for the people of UAE in general and UAE Navy in particular. PNS SAIF celebrated Independence Day of Pakistan at UAE. In this connection, a flag hoisting ceremony was held onboard the ship which was attended by DA (P) and children of Pakistani School at UAE. During the port stay, various bilateral activities including exchange visits onboard UAE Naval units, orientation visits of military installations and coordination meetings were undertaken.



HYDERABAD: Police officials are standing high alert to avoid untoward incident as security has been tightened after attack on churches in Jaranwala, outside Church in Hyderabad.

Annual Urs of Hazrat Muhammad Ali Qalandri observed

HYDERABAD (APP): The annual Urs of Sufi Saint Hazrat Muhammad Ali Qalandri was observed on Thursday at Sultanabad Tando Allahyar with the participation of thousands of devotees from different parts of the country. The Chief Patron of Anjuman Ghulam-e-Qalandar Welfare Sindh, Syed Ghulam Hyder Qalandri addressing the devotees said the people of the world were experiencing difficult situations, however, the world can become a beautiful place by spreading the message of love, peace, and brotherhood. "We should follow the humanitarian philosophy of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and heal the sufferings of others", he said. On this occasion, the book "Asbaaq-e-Ishq" written by Syed Ghulam Haider Shah Qalandri was distributed as a gift to the participants. Among others, Syed Ali Hyder Shah, Syed Abdul Rahman Shah, Muhammad Ibrahim Halepoto, Muhammad Urs Jatoti, Hussain Bux Buledi, Shabir Barfat, Shafi Muhammad Solangi, GM Sarki, Mumtaz Sodhro, Mir Muhammad Rind.

US Secretary of State calls Caretaker PM, greets him on assuming office

ISLAMABAD (Online): US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has congratulated Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on becoming the Caretaker Prime Minister (PM). Antony Blinken said that preparations for the election are underway in Pakistan according to the constitution and we will continue to cooperate for the economic prosperity of Pakistan. Antony Blinken also congratulated Caretaker PM Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on his assumption of office. Caretaker PM Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar thanked the US Secretary of State on Twitter and made it clear that help will be provided for transparent elections.

MC Orangi Town inspects park

KARACHI (APP): Municipal Commissioner Orangi Town Agha Fahad on Thursday inspected a park at Orangi Town no 12 and directed the officials concerned to take steps for cleaning and development works in the park to facilitate visitors specially women and children. Earlier, he also visited a school which is being operated under the management of Town Municipal Administration. The Municipal Commissioner inquired about their problems from the students in the schools.



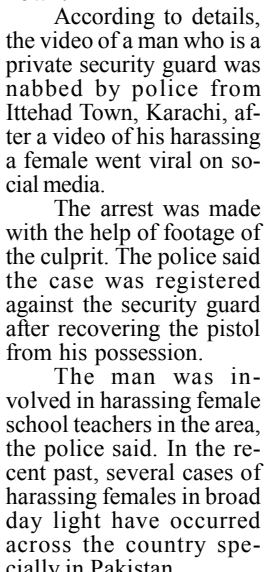
Commanding Officer PNS SAIF receiving Base Commander UAE Naval Forces on board during Pakistan Navy Ship's visit to UAE

Umrah-returned couple looted in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Three alleged criminals carried out a robbery against a couple that had arrived in Karachi earlier Thursday morning following their Umrah pilgrimage. Robbers in police uniforms target couple after umrah arrival in Karachi. According to the details, the husband and wife were robbed by three criminals at gunpoint outside their home in Karachi's Liaquat Abad No. 3. The three robbers wearing police attire looted husband and wife - who had arrived home after performing Umrah - from both local and foreign currency and flee from the scene.

Culprit in viral harassment video arrested

KARACHI (INP): The police on Thursday claimed to have arrested a culprit involved in harassing a woman in Karachi's Ittehad Town. According to details, the video of a man who is a private security guard was nabbed by police from Ittehad Town, Karachi, after a video of his harassing a female went viral on social media. The arrest was made with the help of footage of the culprit. The police said the case was registered against the security guard after recovering the pistol from his possession. The man was involved in harassing female school teachers in the area, the police said. In the recent past, several cases of harassing females in broad day light have occurred across the country specially in Pakistan.



KARACHI: Residents woman of Orangi town hold protest outside k High Court.

U.S. Ambassador calls on Air Chief

ISLAMABAD (APP): U.S. Ambassador Donald Blome called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu here on Thursday. The discussion underscored matters pertaining to geo political environment leading to emerging regional security challenges, augmenting the already fortified bilateral ties and fostering collaborative endeavours within the realms of defence and aviation, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said. The Air Chief accentuated the cordial relations that exist between the two nations while emphasizing his steadfast determination to elevate the existing synergistic partnership between the two key allies. The Chief of the Air Staff further said, "Pakistan deeply values its robust diplomatic, economic and defence ties with the United States of America which are firmly rooted in mutual consensus concerning all important matters pertaining to regional peace, security and stability." During the meeting, the visiting envoy extolled the commendable level of professionalism of Pakistan Air Force personnel and acknowledged the remarkable strides made by PAF through indigenization under the current leadership.

Pak delegation pays day long visit to Afghanistan to attend border meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation from Pakistan Thursday paid a day-long visit to Afghanistan for attending border committee meetings held regularly on a fortnight basis for improving effective liaison and coordination for smooth operation of bilateral and transit trade on both sides of the border. The fifteen-member delegation was headed by Director Transit Customs Department, Arbab Qaiser Hameed. Additional Director Transit Trade, Shams Wazir, Additional Collector Appraisal, Muhammad Rizwan, Deputy Collector Appraisal, Mohib Khan and Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi were also part of the delegation. Raees Gumrak (Customs) Nangarhar Province, Haji Fazle Hadi received the delegation on arrival in Afghanistan. The participants of the meeting discussed different issues including the pendency in the clearance of goods and presented different suggestions for the resolution of problems.



Telenor Pakistan's climate change dialogue unites industry leaders for 'Greener Tomorrow'

Telenor Pakistan's climate change dialogue unites industry leaders for 'Greener Tomorrow'

KARACHI (APP): The climate change experts on Thursday came together in a cross-industry dialogue to understand challenges and learning opportunities for Pakistan due to increasing global warming impacts and natural calamities impacting the country's economy, masses, and natural resources. The event, organised and hosted by Telenor Pakistan at their Karachi office, further the company's commitment to advance sustainability efforts and promote collaborative approaches towards addressing climate change, a news release said. The panel, comprising representatives from Reon Energy, Sapphire Group's Renewable Energy & Infrastructure Business; Linked Things and S. Mehboob & Company shared their insights on the ever-accelerating pace of climate change, its far-reaching consequences, and the evolving roles of businesses. Delving deeper, they explored renewable energy initiatives and technologies, underscoring the pivotal role of stable economic indicators and policies in empowering the private sector towards sustainable futures. A key takeaway from the discussion: by prioritising the reduction of carbon emissions and the promotion of renewable energy, businesses can contribute to the resilience and adaptation efforts crucial for combatting the impact of climate change in Pakistan. Given Pakistan's vulnerability to climate change, this discourse takes on even greater urgency. The nation grapples with extreme climate events such as heatwaves and floods, which have inflicted substantial damage, exacerbated poverty rates, and stifled economic growth.



KARACHI: Members of Peoples Party (PPP Minority Wing) are holding protest demonstration against violence on minority community and condemned attack on churches in Jaranwala incident, held at Karachi press club.

Federal Insurance Ombudsman building confidence among public to get speedy justice: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday said the Federal Insurance Ombudsman was doing major work in building confidence among the general public to get speedy justice by following easy steps. The president said only few percent people knew about the ombudsman's role mainly because of less marketing and awareness campaigns. He said approaching the ombudsman was the cheapest and most effective way to get speedy justice. Addressing a Seminar titled "Insurance Ombudsman and Concept of Speedy Justice at the Doorstep" here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said all the five ombudsmen including Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Federal Banking Ombudsman, Federal Tax Ombudsman, Federal Harassment Ombudsman and the Federal Ombudsman were working under his office. The subject Seminar "Insurance Ombudsman and Concept of Speedy Justice at the Doorstep" is a series of seminars in which the high dignitaries of the insurance sector as well as from

the business community were invited for their valuable views and vision for betterment and transparency in the insurance business. President Alvi said due to his personal efforts, awareness among the people about the role of the Ombudsman had significantly increased. But still, he stressed the need to make more people aware of it. He also highlighted the role of media in creating awareness about the Ombudsmen's role and responsibilities adding that the good decisions by the ombudsmen must be publicized in the national print, electronic and social media. He said ignorance was not an excuse, therefore the people should know about various ways to get justice through alternative means. The president highlighted that in many cases the decisions remained pending for decades in the mainstream judiciary due to overburden of work and other flaws. Therefore, he called upon the people to utilize this channel which was relatively easy, more

quick, and affordable for all. He said Alternative Dispute Resolution was the solution to reduce the burden on the mainstream judiciary. He also asked the insurance company owners to offer better products for the public to increase trust and remove doubts among the people about the insurance companies. Generally, he said the perception of insurance among the general public was not up to the mark which needed to be improved by building trust among them. Federal Insurance Ombudsman Dr Khawar Jamil said the office of FIO was acting upon the concept of providing speedy justice. "We are trying to enhance our outreach to grassroots level and we are also endeavoring to provide maximum relief to the complainants by settling their issues in an amicable manner and through mutual settlement", he added. He informed that during previous year the office had settled issues and provided relief worth of Rs 2.57 billion.



LAHORE: Religious Scholar Allama Tahir Mehmood Ashrafi along with the Archbishop is addressing a press conference on the Jarnawala Issue at Regal Church.

PIA distances itself from officers association

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA's) management on Thursday expressed its detachment from PIA's Officers Association, following a statement regarding the privatization of the national airline. PIA's management has sent a written letter to Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), stating its detachment from PIA's Officers Association. The letter stated that the PIA's officer association does not have any legal relationship with Senior Staff Association (SASA), as well as the organization has no legal status. "The statement of the PIA's officers association should not be considered as an official statement of the PIA management, hopefully this letter is enough to explain the position of the PIA," the letter reads.

Mayor Sukkur stresses efficient & transparent services to public

SUKKUR (APP): Mayor Sukkur Barrister Arslan Sheikh on Thursday chaired a meeting aimed at assessing the progress of ongoing activities in Sukkur. Mayor Sukkur engaged with the officials, underscoring the collective responsibility of all employees of the Sukkur Municipal Corporation (SMC) to provide efficient and transparent services to the public.

CJP says Accused acquitted due to presentation of unacceptable evidences by prosecution

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has adjourned the hearing of the petitions about cancellation of Police Order -2002 for indefinite period. The Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJ) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked due to lack of protection of crime scenes the evidences are destroyed and the accused are acquitted due to presentation of unacceptable evidences by the prosecution in the courts. The CJP admired the steps taken by Sindh and KP police. The petitions regarding cancellation of police order 2002 came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by the CJP Thursday. The CJP remarked due to lack of protection of crime scenes, the evidences are destroyed and the accused are acquitted due to presentation of unacceptable evidences by prosecution in the courts. There are weaknesses in police investigation and accused persons take advantage of it. He remarked Sindh has set up a separate investigation wing. Sindh police step is appreciable. Punjab and Islamabad police have not taken such steps for improvement in investigation. In KP Police system has been improved to some extent. He observed Punjab and Islamabad are behind the other provinces in improving police system. Recently judicial policy making committee held meeting. All IG's and prosecutors appeared in the meeting. Lawyer Farooq H Naik said while giving arguments that Sindh Assembly has been dissolved. Time be given to obtain instructions from care taker government.



KARACHI: Members of Peoples Party (PPP Minority Wing) are holding protest demonstration against violence on minority community and condemned attack on churches in Jaranwala incident, held at Karachi press club.

Larkana Press Club holds candlelight vigil to remember journalist Jan Muhammad

LARKANA (APP): A candlelight vigil was held at Larkana Press Club on Thursday to pay tribute to renowned journalist and Bureau Chief of a private Sindh TV channel Jan Muhammad Mahar. All the office bearers of the Press Club, members of the club, journalists, cameramen, photographers and people from different walks of life gathered there to reminisce Jan Muhammad Mahar and placed flowers and candles light vigil in front of the photo of the martyred Jan Muhammad Mahar. On the occasion, a special prayer for Jan Muhammad Mahar was offered.

Ghulam Murtaza Kalhor, Naveed Larik, Dr. Mouna Bakhsh Kalhor, Sarkesh Sadhaya, Zafar Ali Abro, Munir Ahmed Soomro, Munawwar Rind, Abdul Qadir Jagerani, Dr. Baddarddin Sheikh, Salamata Ali Abro, Muhammad Idrees Balouch and others said that an unsuccessful attempt was made to suppress the voice of journalists of Sindh by brutally killing Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar, but the journalists of Sindh were forced to raise their voice. They said that an FIR has been lodged in the Jan Muhammad Mahar incident and the Sukkur police have

claimed that they have arrested some of the facilitators, but the failure of the police to arrest the real killers is clear proof of the failure of the police. They further said that the JIT which has been formed on the incident of Jan Muhammad Mahar's murder, but even before that, JITs were formed to investigate such high-profile cases, but they could not reach any conclusion. The journalist community of Larkana demanded that all the accused involved in the murder of Shaheed Jan Muhammad Mahar should be arrested and justice should be done.