

Independent

dailyindkhi@gmail.com

Chief Editor: Syed Farooq Shah

Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 240 Safar 05, 1445 AH Wednesday August 23, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Caretaker govt to ensure transparent, impartial election process: PM Kakar

Caretaker govt to fulfill constitutional requirement of assisting electoral process

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday reiterated that the interim government would ensure holding of the upcoming general elections in the most transparent and impartial manner, accepted to all.

Talking to media after visiting the Mazar-e-Quaid to pay tribute and offer Fateha, the prime minister said that the caretaker government would function in the limited time-frame only to ensure the election process.

They would play their part in that regard by holding transparent and impar-

tial polls, so that Pakistan could move through its constitutional transitional period, he added.

On the occasion, the prime minister was accompanied by Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori, Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retired) Maqbool Baqir and the members of his cabinet. It was the maiden visit of the caretaker prime minister to Karachi after assuming his office.

The prime minister said that he along with his few cabinet members came here to pay homage to Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah and

reaffirm to work for the progress and prosperity of the country by highlighting the social contract under which a separate state came into being.

Referring to an address of the Founder of the Nation on August 11, 1947 before the Constituent Assembly, he said it focused on the rights of the minorities and equality among individuals.

Prime Minister Kakar expressed the optimism that the people of the country would excel in different fields on the basis of their talents and it was the future of the country.

Earlier, the prime minister laid a wreath at the grave of the Founder of the Nation and offered Fateha. He also penned down his expressions in the visitors' book.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday said the caretaker government's prime mandate was to assist, and monitor the electoral process which was the constitutional requirement.

He said keeping in mind the prime mandate, the caretaker government would monitor its day-to-day activities to the best of its abilities.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar talking to media after visiting Mazar-e-Quaid.



KARACHI: Governor Sindh, Kamran Tessori exchanging views with Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiah, Saudi Minister for Hajj and Umrah during meeting held at Governor House in Karachi.

Saudi Minister for Hajj, Umrah calls on Tessori

KARACHI (APP): Minister of Hajj and Umrah of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Tawfiq Bin Fawzan Al-Rabiyah on Tuesday called on Governor of Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori at the Governor's House here.

In the meeting, Pak-Saudi relations, matters related to Hajj and Umrah pilgrims, measures to solve them and other matters of

mutual interest were discussed on the occasion.

The Sindh Governor said that the hearts of the people of Pakistan beat with the people of Saudi Arabia.

Kamran Khan Tessori said that he is grateful for the arrival of Saudi Minister in Karachi as well for the facilities provided to Hajj and Umrah pilgrims.

President approves appointment of Chief Justice PHC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has approved appointment of Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan as the Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court.

The president accorded his approval to the appointment of CJ Peshawar High Court under Article 175 A (13) of the Constitution and on the advice of the prime minister, President Secretariat Press Wing said in a press release on Tuesday.

Justice Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, senior Puisne Judge, has been working as Acting CJ Peshawar High Court.

CM Sindh takes notice of missing girl from Mansion

SUKKUR (APP): Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqir on Tuesday took notice of a 20-year-old girl, Sana from Qambar, who was sent to the mansion of a Pir of Ranipur, reportedly gone missing.

Chief Minister Sindh has directed the Divisional Commissioner and DIG Sukkur to investigate the incident and ensure safe recovery of the missing girl.

Earlier, Deedar Gurmiani, resident of Qambar, while talking to the media, said one and a half years ago, he had sent his 20-year-old daughter Sana to the mansion (haveli) of Pir of Ranipur Syed Sohail Ahmed Shah in Khairpur for the trust and protection until his problems were resolved.

Khadim Rind to become new Police Chief of Karachi

KARACHI (INP): A reshuffle of top police officials in Sindh has been on the card as a list of Grade-21 police officers has been prepared for transfers.

It has been decided to appoint Additional IGP Khadim Rind as the new police chief of Karachi. Incumbent police chief of the city, Javed Alam Odho will be transferred to the IG Police Jails post. Javed Alam Odho had taken charge as the city police chief in June last year.

Additional IGP Imran Yaqoob Minhas will be posted as Chairman Anti-Corruption Department, while AIG Munir Shaikh will be transferred to the Motorway Police.

The federal government on Saturday approved appointment of Dr Riffat Mukhtar as the new Sindh inspector general on Saturday, replacing Ghulam Nabi Memon as the provincial police chief. According to a notification issued by Establishment Division, Riffat Mukhtar - a BS-21 officer serving under government of Punjab - was transferred and posted as provincial police officer, government of Sindh, with immediate effect.

Former CM meets Caretaker CM, raises issue of two PPP workers' murder

KARACHI (APP): Former Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah accompanied by Saeed Ghani called on Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqir here at CM House and expressed serious reservations on the killing of two PPP workers in Karachi.

Shah said that two PPP workers, Hussain Alhadi and Shaukat Hamad were killed one after another.

He said that this has created a wave of reservations and apprehensions among the PPP workers.

He urged the Caretaker CM to order an impartial inquiry into the matter and take necessary measures to protect the

Pak summons Indian diplomat over LoC killing

ISLAMABAD (Online): Indian Charge d' Affaires Summoned to Register Pakistan's Strong Protest over Killing of a Civilian at the Line of Control (LoC).

The Indian Charge d' Affaires was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs today, to register Pakistan's strong protest over the killing of a 60-year-old civilian, Ghias, resident of Oli village of Kotli district, as a result of firing by the Indian forces.

The incident took place in the Nikial Sector of the Line of Control (LoC) on 21 August 2023.

Emphasizing the need for maintaining peace and tranquillity at the LoC, it was underscored that such acts are in clear violation of the 2003 Ceasefire Understanding, reaffirmed in February 2021.

The caretaker CM assured his visiting predecessor that justice would be done in the case.

Six soldiers martyred, 4 terrorists killed in South Waziristan encounter: ISPR

PESHAWAR (APP): Six troops were martyred and four terrorists killed during exchange of firing in South Waziristan tribal district on Tuesday.

According to ISPR, fire exchange took place between own troops and terrorists in general area Asman Manza, South Waziristan District.

"Own troops effectively engaged the terrorists' location and resultantly four terrorists

were sent to hell, while two terrorists were injured. However, during intense exchange of fire, six brave soldiers fought gallantly, embraced Shahadat," the ISPR said.

Sanitization of the area is being carried out to eliminate any other terrorists found in the area.

Armed forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism and such sacrifices of our brave soldiers further strengthen our resolve.

Haris calls for coordinated efforts to maintain law and order in Sindh

KARACHI: The Caretaker Minister for Home & Prisons Brgd. @ Haris Nawaz has said that over the course of the last few years, street crime has risen in the city with the population living in severe economic conditions.

This he said while presiding over a meeting during his visit to the Special Branch Headquarter of the

Sindh Police here today. Besides others, IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar, Additional IGP Special Branch, Khadim Hussain Rind, DIG Special Branch, Asif Ejaz Shaikh and Director IT Tabasum Abbasi attended the meeting. Caretaker Home Minister said that there was an immediate need for a surveillance system, which the safe city project promises.

Dr. Syed Junaid Ali Shah visits different departments

KARACHI (APP): The Caretaker Minister for Culture, Youth Affairs & Sports and Human Resource Development Dr. Syed Junaid Ali Shah after assuming charge visited Department of Antiquities, Pakistan Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management and Archives Complex here on Tuesday.

Secretary Culture Sindh Abdul Aleem Lashari,

DG Culture Manwar Mahesar, DG Antiquities Sindh Manzoor Ahmad Kanasro and other officers were also present on the occasion.

Dr. Junaid Shah met the officers of the departments and discussed their responsibilities. The caretaker provincial minister asked the officers to continue their duties with honesty and dedication.



ISLAMABAD: Director General, FIA Mohsin Hassan Butt called on Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.

PPP terms 'Digital Census' as fake, far bigger damage to Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Senator Taj Haider has expressed concern over the digital census saying that his party's central election cell has received disturbing reports about the undercount of the population from sources located in different provinces.

He said that Initial computations in the province of Sindh reveal that the damage done to the province of Sindh as a result of the so-called 'Digital Census' is far bigger

than what was initially feared and warned against when we now look at the population figures published in the Gazette notification of August 7, 2023," a communique said here on Tuesday. Sindh, which remains the destination of economic migrants from other provinces, Gilgit Baltistan, and Azad Kashmir, besides a large number of illegal migrants, has been allotted an average family size (AFS) of a mere 5.64. Punjab has an average family size.

Younus Dagha says E-Registration system should be introduced to facilitate the masses

KARACHI: Sindh Caretaker Minister of Finance, Revenue and Planning and Development Muhammad Younus Dagha on Tuesday directed officials concerned that e-registration system should be introduced to facilitate the masses.

Younus Dagha said this while presiding over the meeting held at the office of the Sindh Board of Revenue here.

He directed the concerned officers to remove the defects from the record

of Board of Revenue and also improve services. For this purpose an e-registration system should be introduced to facilitate the citizens, he added.

Younus Dagha told the officers that providing the best services to the citizens should be their priority and all efforts should be made for this purpose.

In the meeting, the officers of the Sindh Revenue department gave a detailed briefing to the minister about their respective fields.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi meeting with the members of Pakistan Special Olympics Team, who participated in Berlin Special Olympics, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Battagram cable car: All eight rescued in hours-long operation

BATTAGRAM (INP): All eight stranded persons, including schoolchildren and a teacher, were successfully rescued by Pakistan Army troops in hours-long operation after two wires of a cable car snapped in Battagram's Allat tehsil on Tuesday morning, leaving them stranded over 600 feet mid-air.

Military's media wing, the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), said in a statement that the GOC SSG himself supervised the operation.

The Ministry of Interior said the rescued persons are identified as Irfan s/o Amrez, Niaz s/o Umarzeb, Rizwan s/o Abdul Qayyum, Gulfaraz s/o Hakeemdad, Sher Nawaz s/o Shah Nazar, Abrar s/o Abdul Ghani, Attullah s/o Kifayatullah and Usama s/o Muhammad Sharif.

The students, stranded since 7am, were using the cable car to get to school in a mountainous area in Battagram, about 200 km (125 miles) north of Islamabad, officials said.



KARACHI: Interim Sindh Health Minister, Dr. Saad Niaz presiding over the meeting to discuss scope of support in the province Sindh through the Sindh Health Departments collaboration with PPHI, held in Karachi.

Karachi Police chief, others meet IGP Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police IGP Sindh Riffat Mukhtar on Tuesday said the Special Branch should further strengthen the coordination with other law enforcement agencies.

Addressing a meeting with Additional IGP Karachi Javed Alam Odho, Additional IGP Special Branch Khadim Hussain Rind and Additional IGP - Training Abdul Qadir Qayyum, the Sindh Police chief said the mechanism should be strengthened against miscreants, elements hostile to the country/society.

Talking about training centers, he said the training centers were the first school of professional life of the police.

He asked the Additional IGP - Training to promote positive attitude and

thinking among the personnel under training from the overall training.

On the occasion, Additional IGP - Karachi Javed Alam Odho gave a briefing on the law and order situation in the city.

He informed about the police security plan and its implementation.

Javed Alam Odho also apprised about the measures taken to protect the life and property of the citizens. Additional IGP - Special Branch Khadim Hussain Rind covered the law and order priorities of the Special Branch. He told about the advanced intelligence collection and actions taken based on it. Additional IGP - Training Abdul Qadir Qayyum mentioned the details about training schools, colleges and centers including policing training issues.



BATTAGRAM: Pakistan Army Special Service Group (SSG) Commandos take part in rescue operation after a cable car incident in Battagram.

Illegal sale of Iranian petrol surges in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Karachi, Pakistan's economic hub, is grappling with the illegal sale of Iranian petrol which is openly conducted on various roads across the city.

The individuals have set up petrol-selling operations in the city, often selling Iranian petrol in plastic bottles as containers.

This illegal trade not only poses significant risks to public safety but also undermines legal businesses and government efforts to regulate the petroleum sector.

Large quantity of NCP goods seized, one arrested

KARACHI (APP): The district Keamari Police foiled a smuggling bid for a huge quantity of non-custom paid (NCP) goods and arrested an allegedly involved accused. According to a spokesman for Keamari Police on Tuesday, the Madina Colony police station of district Keamari during checking of a passenger bus coming from Quetta, Balochistan, at the Hub River Road recovered NCP goods worth millions. The recovered goods include 17 sacks of betel nuts weighing 170kg, 10 cartons of cigarettes, 10 cartons of chocolate, 20 cartons of milk and 45 bundles of gas pipes.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

'No' means 'yes'

With the caretakers settling in, one would have expected that the fever that has lately wracked Pakistani politics would finally start receding. Instead, it appears that we may be in for a fresh bout of febrile uncertainty, thanks to continuing power struggles at the highest levels of the state.

The president on Sunday caused a major scandal when he posted on X (formerly Twitter) that he had never assented to two controversial bills seeking to amend the Army Act and the Official Secrets Act. Just a day earlier, these amendments had been [announced][2] as having been enacted into law.

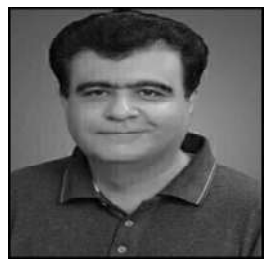
The president's startling disclosure triggered a furor, with analysts and commentators presenting vastly different views on its implications. As the interim government tried to deflect blame, the country faced international ridicule over the farcical manner in which it has been run as of late.

It is clear that something had been amiss at the presidency. This publication was repeatedly stonewalled by the Aiwan-i-Sadr in recent days whenever it attempted to get confirmation on which laws among the dozens passed by the 15th National Assembly in its last days had actually been given President Arif Alvi's assent. It is unclear who was seeking to withhold this information from the public; the president's own statement appears to suggest that he, too, was being kept in the dark.

However, it has also greatly confused many who President Alvi thought it necessary to apologise for the two laws as if their implementation was inevitable. Had he accepted them to be fait accompli? Why? Several legal experts have argued that the two bills can no longer be deemed to have been enacted, considering the president never gave them his assent. Why, then, did Mr Alvi take such an ambiguous position on the matter through his post?

There must be an independent inquiry into this matter. If any person or persons sought to ensure that these two bills were enacted regardless of what the president actually thought about them, they must be found and prosecuted. The latest is that the President's Secretariat has called for his secretary to be replaced. This is not enough. All responsible must face exemplary punishment for subverting the legislative process. If President Alvi truly believes he was deceived, he has a responsibility to restore the sanctity of his office.

Meanwhile, the legal status of the two laws continues to be debated. While the caretaker government and several PML-N leaders have rushed to defend their enactment, the ongoing controversy boils down to the question of how the Constitution is to be correctly interpreted on the matter. While this question is resolved, the two laws, in their amended form, must not be enforced till the judiciary has had the final say.



Dr Niaz Murtaza

It is observed that the two parties that signed a compact for the Charter of Democracy in 2006 have seemingly now 'signed' one for the barter of democracy with unelected forces in order to regain power through controversial polls.

The PPP and PML-N have odd ties with democratic evolution. The harm they have done to it far exceeds the good. But, reflecting on our limited democratic gains, the good they did while in power in the 1970s and then from 2008 to 2018 far exceeds that by all other civilian and khaki regimes combined in 65 years. It includes the 1973 Constitution; the 2010 devolution; holding the only smooth transfer of power between two fairly elected regimes via our fairest polls; accommodation after polls in letting the PTI and BNP rule KP and Balochistan, even though with some dicey effort the PML-N may have ruled both; major electoral reforms in 2010 and 2017 empowering an interim caretaker system to thwart rigging by incumbents; more freedom of rights than under most of our other regimes, etc.

One can make a much longer list of their wrongs even in these eras. But that won't erase the pluses above or the fact that they are much more than those by all other regimes, for example, the more limited pluses of PTI's KP local bodies and 2002 reserved assembly seats laws. Democratic evolution doesn't mean immediate good governance.

Charter or barter?

Their actual governance and delivery even then were very poor. Still, the limited evolution is critical as lasting good governance came globally only after prolonged democratic evolution.

But the PPP and PML-N have undone much of that now and returned to their 1990s form. The fair polls norm ended in 2018 under the PTI. But the two parties undid the neutral interim system via poor nominations for key posts and, it is feared, will collude with other actors to hold far more dubious polls. Their record on political accommodation and human rights was even worse than the PTI's. Devolution and the Constitution have survived but are regularly flouted by not just the establishment but also these two parties, the PTI, the ECP and other institutions. Hence, it is hard to see a quick path back to civilian sway and democratic evolution. Even civilian sway may only allow illiberal quasi-democracy as the PTI and PML-N both rule autocratically.

So, a clueless nation is back to square one, left to ponder why democratic evolution is so elusive for it. But AFPak, closest and long linked to autocratic Central Asia and Middle East, lags behind, partially due to the links. Some see promising social change that may serve democracy; for example, the expanding urban, youth and middle-class numbers and the use of social media. But this is a futile hope as the trends are actually strengthening the status quo and vacuous nationalist, ethnic or religious populist groups. Demographic and technological trends don't result in progress directly but only if harnessed by positive change agents, of which there are limited signs.

All our bases of power — economic, po-

litical, social, legal, informational and military — are monopolised by elite factions who compete for bigger pieces of state power. The most intense recent political struggles have been between elite groups: the military, the courts, traditional elitist parties and new populist parties representing new elites. Even worse, the biggest challenge to the status quo comes from TTP extremism followed by Baloch groups who have real complaints but unluckily use militant strategies instead of peaceful ones.

Beyond them, the worthier left challenge is still embryonic due to state repression and people's attraction to reactionary rather than rational the-mes. Democratic groups break the suffocating hold of elites on all six power bases by building strong social, informational and political power. The left still has a long way to go to capture even those power bases due to constant repression. Thus, we may be in for a long and ruinous era of khajakistocracy. It's unclear if we will return to elected rule soon. The PDM and ECP have wrongly delayed polls to draw new delimitations. The Constitution mandates those under new census results if they change provincial seats in the National Assembly, which the last census hasn't. Many are singing praises of the interim cabinet and egging on the establishment to prolong its influence to 'save Pakistan'. But teams deliver if they share a common vision and work history under a natural, strong leader. It is naïve to expect a disparate team of even top experts to deliver with no clear ideology or shared vision. Our destiny lies in quickly holding fair polls to return to elected rule despite all its flaws. — Courtesy Dawn

Truck face twins



Shahzad Sharjeel

They have the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, we have the Bhutto-Zardari clan. They had a foreign-origin first lady, we could have had one too, but she was hounded out. They have Rahul, we have Bilawal. Both are young compared to their septuagenarian competitors who have been variously and dismissively calling them pappu (prepubescent lad), baby, etc.

The higher judiciary in both countries plays a significant political role. Legislators in both places have an embarrassing number of criminal cases against them, ranging from goat theft to murder. The list of similarities is endless, but where we see a clear divergence emerging is how election campaigns and canvassing are done. The tech side of it has been somewhat replicated by the PTI, but where legwork is concerned, we clearly lag — rallies led from the cool environs of SUVs and biryani-fed sittings do not count. Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra from one end of India to the other and his truck rides in Indian Punjab and Haryana and between Washington and New York are cases in point. Both endeavours were at least partially aimed at dispelling criticism that the top party leadership is disconnected from the street and the reality of life for citizens at home and the diaspora abroad.

Our political elites' outings are restricted to wading through ankle-deep rainwater in knee-high boots or staged showings at shelters for the homeless and orphanages, where the

epitome of their public empathy is, 'wo aam logon mein ghul mil gaye' (they mingled with the common folk). Imran Khan is in jail, but it is a matter of time before he is allowed to go abroad on health grounds. Neither the referees in robes nor the coaches in uniform would want him permanently 'out' as sparing partners are needed even for fixed matches.

Some people may come to Bilawal's defence, citing the history of violence against his family and continuing security threats as reasons behind his lack of street credentials. But the argument doesn't hold as Rahul's grandmother and father lost their lives to assassins' bullets and a suicide bomb; the former while in office, the latter as former prime minister. His last speech in parliament and subsequent statements may have sounded rebellious, but Bilawal should know that one cannot ditch the baggage without renouncing the fortune.

Any politician who can connect with even 10 per cent of the electorate is a force to reckon with, believes Sanjaya Baru, veteran journalist and author of Accidental Prime Minister. Mr Baru, who has witnessed power politics firsthand as media adviser to then prime minister Manmohan Singh, feels that Bharat Jodo Yatra will play an important part in Congress's resurgence and Rahul's coming into his own as party leader.

Like Pakistan, the present dispensation in India is trying to knock the opposition leader out of the fray. Rahul has managed to hang on to his Lok Sabha seat through the supreme court's suspension of a lower court order to unseat him on libel charges for making false accusations against PM Modi.

Among the plethora of charges against him,

Imran Khan can face multiple cases for breaching the Official Secrets Act. Legislation in this regard was passed with undue haste by parliament. Many see the legislation as PTI-specific.

Not that Imran has not been cavalier in his handling of classified information, ranging from the cipher concerning a purported US conspiracy for regime change in Pakistan to an alleged statement by a former army chief regarding the fuel gauges of tanks. The PDM alliance's unseemly haste in pushing through a slew of legislation has hurt the cause of democratic norms as much as PTI's gleeful de-cla-r-a-tions did of being on the same page with the establishment. Jawaharlal Nehru, during his premiership, told Acharya Kripalani, the Congress president at the time, that if he wanted to know what went on behind closed doors in government meetings, he could join his cabinet as a minister without portfolio, as the Official Secrets Act prevented him from sharing classified information with anyone outside the cabinet. It is difficult to say how much Prime Minister Modi shares with the RSS but his frequent huddles with it along with BJP officeholders are well known.

The Indians have had their accidental prime ministers like Manmohan Singh and Rajiv Gandhi. We have had our share of accidental and dental presidents. Let us hope that the Pakistani voters are allowed to elect their next prime minister and do so carefully, and that there is nothing accidental about it before and after. It is, however, unrealistic to hope that the next dispensation will have no truck with tanks. Bilawal's belligerent albeit accurate depiction of Modi could make him an early applicant to be the next same 'pageboy'. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Minister proposes 'Business Park' initiative to enhance trade

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr Gohar Ejaz on Tuesday proposed a "Business Park" initiative to enhance trade for sustainable economic growth in the country.

In a bid to consolidate Pakistan's global trade connections, the Federal Minister has unveiled his intention to establish Business Parks in major cities, said a press release issued here.

These parks or Facilitation Centres for traders would be designed to serve as hubs for foreign

traders, enhancing trade relationships and driving economic growth.

He said this during a meeting held on Tuesday at his office in Islamabad, where he met with prominent exporters and trader Fawad Mukhtar, CEO of Fatima Fertilizer.

Anwaar Ahmad Ghani, CEO of Ghani Glass Ltd, Mian M Ahsan US apparel and denim, Shahid Soorti CEO of Soorti Textile, Fawad Javid, Din Textile, Faisal Afridi, Haier Appliances, to discuss his vision.

The minister

reiterated his determination to explore every avenue possible to realize Pakistan's export potential.

Dr. Gohar Ejaz observed that the proposed Business Parks would be poised as vital stepping stones in realizing Pakistan's economic growth and prosperity on the global stage.

With a focus on immediate solutions, the establishment of buying houses or the utilization of rental buildings managed by the local business community also came under discussion.

These measures would aim at addressing the pressing need for the facilitation of foreign traders.

Expressing his resolute commitment to increasing the country's exports, Dr Ejaz emphasized the necessity to adopt a strategic approach. The minister proposed targeting specific countries according to their respective sectors, thus maximizing the impact of Pakistan's export efforts.

This tailored strategy, he believes, will yield more favorable results.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman in a group photo with the women who got Laurels of Honour Awards organized by Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House.



LAHORE: Grand Traders Alliance leader, Umar Javed Butt along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Lahore press club.

Pak exports food products worth \$329 mln in July

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan exported food products worth \$329.156 million during the first month of current fiscal year (July), Pakistan Bureau of Statistics reported.

As compared to the exports of \$356.073 million during July 2022, the exports in July 2023 depicted decline of 7.56 percent, according to latest PBS data.

On month on month basis, the exports during July 2023 decreased by 8.81 percent compared to the exports of \$360.961 million in June 2023.

The food products that contributed in the negative growth of trade included rice,

the exports of which declined by 15.78 percent, from \$360.961 million last July to \$117.101 million in July 2023. Likewise, the exports of vegetables declined by 67.20 percent by going down from \$44.396 million last year to \$14.564 million this year and tobacco the exports of which decrease by 58.35 percent, from \$4.917 million to \$2.048 million. The food items that witnessed positive growth included fish and fish preparations, the exports of which increased by 2.2 percent by going up from \$18.572 million to \$18.980 million whereas the exports of fruits increased by 4.61 percent, from \$34.171 million to \$35.746 million.

Qatari Charged' Affairs calls on Chairman FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Charge d' Affaires of Qatar Essa Mohammad Al-Dasem Al-Kubaisi Tuesday visited Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjed Zubair Tiwana. During the meeting, the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation in areas of customs and tax to further boost trade relations between the two brotherly countries, said a news release issued here.

It was agreed that mutual collaboration would be strengthened by sharing best practices and expertise of the two countries in these fields.

Minister reviews situation after dissolution of PIDB

LAHORE (INP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce SM Tanveer chaired a meeting to review industrial projects implemented by Punjab Industrial Development Board (PIDB) and the situation after the dissolution of the board in 1997, here at TEVTA Secretariat on Tuesday.

The minister was briefed that PIDB had set up 14 industrial projects including 5 sugar mills, 3 textile mills and 6 rice mills.

All industrial projects undertaken by the board had been privatized, 18 cases were pending in various courts regarding recovery of dues. The cell is functioning under an administrator after the dissolution of the board to settle litigation and recovery of dues, the meeting told. Provincial Minister SM Tanveer said that expenditure of millions of rupees from the government treasury every year since 1997 to recover the dues of Rs 100 million was deplorable.

KP Govt prioritized various potential sectors for investment

PESHAWAR (APP): Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry has said that various sectors including mining, energy, information technology (IT) and tourism have been identified as prioritized sectors for investment in the province. Speaking at a meeting with the business community of the province here at Civil Secretariat on Tuesday, he said that the provincial government will take investment in these sectors

to SIFC (Special Investment Facilitation Council), saying investors in these sectors would be provided full facilities.

Besides, FPCCI Coordinator for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sartaj Ahmad Khan and representatives of various chambers, administrative secretaries, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) and Managing Directors (MDs) of the subsidiaries of the industries and finance departments attended the meeting.

Women being given equal opportunities to advance in every field of life: Baligh

Independent Report

LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman attended the Laurels of Honour Awards 2023 ceremony organized by Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry here at Governor House Lahore today as a special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur

Rehman said that no society can progress without the active participation of women in various spheres of life. He added that it is commendable that women are making their mark in every walk of life, including the business sector. He said that women are being given equal opportunities to advance in every field of life. Governor Punjab said that empowerment of women is

very important for gender equality. He said that women are excelling in professional careers along with playing a significant role as home makers. Governor Punjab said that it is praiseworthy that the Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Lahore Division) is playing a vital role in honing the entrepreneurial skills of women and ensuring their representation in sectors.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, MSC Marina, Lana, Chem Saiph, Ullswater and Fuwairit, carrying Container, Palm oil, LPG and LNG berthed at Container Terminal, Liquid Cargo Terminal, SSG Terminal and Elengy Terminal respectively on Monday. Meanwhile another general cargo ship 'Jigjiga' also arrived at outer anchorage of the Port Qasim on Tuesday.

Eight ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them two ships, MSC Marina and Lana sailed out to sea.

Zong 4G innovates beyond traditional bundles

ISLAMABAD (APP): Zong 4G, the leading telecommunication network in Pakistan, has launched a revolutionary package that redefined customer-centric offers.

As part of the initiative, customers can use an astounding 100GB of high-speed data along with 1000 Off-net minutes for effortless contact with loved ones outside the Zong network and 10,000 On-net minutes for nonstop communication with other Zong subscribers, said a news

release. Moreover, this is the first offer to give amazing discounts and deals on Golootlo and Waada! In an industry-first Monthly Digital Max subscribers can unlock exclusive discounts on top retailers and brands through Golootlo, enhancing their shopping experience.

With this offer, Zong 4G aims to provide added value to its Monthly Digital Max subscribers by offering them exclusive discounts on a wide range of products and services.

CM Naqvi expresses annoyance over poor arrangements at HFH

Independent Report
RAWALPINDI: Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi on Tuesday directed the administration of the Holy Family Hospital (HFH) to improve the management of the hospital within a week else strict action would be taken against them.

During a visit to HFH, the CM in detail inspected various sections of the hospital and found bloody bed sheets in wards, long queues at reception, shortage of ventilators, while air conditioners were also shut down in several wards. He interacted with

the patients and their attendants and inquired about the medical facilities provided to them.

On the occasion, the patients complained to the CM that medicines were not available in the hospital and they were forced to buy medicines and carry out medical tests from outside the hospital.

Naqvi inspected the Emergency, children and Dengue wards of the

hospital and also visited the shelter home and reviewed the accommodation and food facilities. He directed the hospital's management to improve the efficiency of the available resources as quality and timely treatment was the right of the patients.

Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Dr Jamal Nasir, Information Minister Amir Mir, Vice-Chancellor Rawalpindi Medical University Dr Muhammad Umer and Medical Superintendent Dr Ejaz Butt were present on the occasion.



FAISALABAD: Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi talking with the transgender community at Circuit House.

KP governor orders for emergency measures to rescue children

PESHAWAR (INP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali Tuesday directed the Chief Secretary and Commissioner Hazara Division for taking emergency measures for the rescue of the children trapped in a chairlift at Batagram.

The governor in his directive said all available resources should be used for the safe evacuation of the children.

Senator Abdul Ghafoor Haideri also telephoned the governor

and inquired about the health of trapped children, besides rescue efforts.

The governor said all the relevant organizations and district administration were jointly taking part in the rescue operation. A helicopter was also being used for the purpose.

The elders of Batagram thanked the governor for promptly initiating of the rescue operation.

The governor expressed the hope that the rescue operation would be completed soon.

President tweet: Hamza urges transparent investigation

LAHORE (Online): PML-N President and Former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Hamza Shehbaz Sharif said that a tweet of President of Pakistan has created crisis. Transparent investigation should be conducted regarding this matter. He said in a statement that letter of President Secretary has also come out. Comprehensive and transparent investigation should be conducted by considering the seriousness of the matter.

No negligence to be tolerated in dengue surveillance: DC

FAISALABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Abullah Nayar Sheikh has directed dengue surveillance teams to perform their duties honestly and dedication as no negligence will be tolerated in the surveillance of dengue larvae.

Presiding over a meeting of the District Emergency Response Committee here on Tuesday, he said that dengue was a chronic issue which required permanent and thorough surveillance.

One-window operation being launched for complaints of overseas: Ombudsman

FAISALABAD (APP): Federal Ombudsman Ejaz Ahmad Qureshi on Tuesday said that one-window operation was being launched to redress complaints of overseas Pakistanis speedily whereas a comprehensive policy would be evolved soon to take action against online apps fraud.

Talking to the media at the Circle House here, he said the federal ombudsman had powers to hear and redress public complaints against 180 departments. It was resolving 60,000

complaints per annum but now this number was being increased and this year it was expected to redress about 200,000 complaints.

He said that earlier the ombudsman had initiated "Informal Resolution of Dispute" programme which had provided tangible results in resolving public grievances speedily. Now, one-window operation was being launched under which all departments would be bound to resolve complaints of overseas Pakistanis, including their immigration issues, he added.



KARACHI: View of newly constructed bus stop point of the Intra-District Peoples Bus Service project, bus on its way after started the operation of buses located on Clifton area in Karachi.

Rawalpindi's hospitals to be improved at cost Rs 2 billion: Dr Jamal

RAWALPINDI (APP): Caretaker Provincial Minister for Primary and Secondary Health Care and Population Welfare Dr Jamal Nasir has said that

Caretaker Chief Minister, Punjab Mohsin Naqvi had provided over two billion rupees in funds for improving public health facilities at Rawalpindi's hospitals.

He said this while presiding over separate meetings at Holy Family and Benazir Bhutto Hospitals to review the procedure of utilization of funds.

The minister said that Rs1.8 billion would be utilized for the revamping

of the Holy Family Hospital, while the upgradation of Benazir Bhutto Hospital OPD would be carried out at Rs 160 million.

He further informed that Emergency and OPD of the District Headquarters Hospital would be developed with the allocation of Rs 100 mln.

Dr. Jamal Nasir said that the budget of Tehsil Headquarter Hospital, Murree had been restored for 82 beds while six dialysis machines had also been provided to the hospital to deal with the increasing number of patients.



LAHORE: Girls student visiting stall during an event "A day with Pakistan Navy" organized by Pakistan Navy War College, Lahore.

PDMA Punjab DG visits Atari, reviews flood situation in Sutlej River

LAHORE (APP): The Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Punjab Director General Imran Qureshi, along with Sahiwal Division Commissioner Shoaib Iqbal Syed, visited Atari and reviewed the flood situation in the Sutlej River. RPO Mehboob Rasheed, Deputy Commissioner Okara Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan Hanif, District Police Officer Captain Retd Mansoor Aman and District Emergency Officer

Chaudhry Zafar Iqbal were also present on this occasion. Director General Imran Qureshi visited the flood relief camp established at Atari, and checked the medicine stock available at the health counter, livestock counter and rescue counter. Deputy Commissioner Dr. Muhammad Zeeshan Hanif while giving a detailed briefing about the rescue operation and flood relief camp said that there are more than 2000 flood victims men, women and children.

Peshawar, KP plain areas in grip of severe heat

PESHAWAR (APP): As earlier predicted by the provincial meteorological center, the plain areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including the provincial metropolis Peshawar have been in the grip of severe hot and humid weather.

The dense humidity and sun heat has badly affected daily routine life, forcing people to remain indoors to remain safe from heat stroke.

The Bannu and Dera Ismail Khan districts were among the hottest places in the province as the other day the highest temperature of 43 degrees Celsius was recorded in Bannu followed by Dera Ismail Khan with 42 degree Celsius. Humidity remained at 69 percent in Bannu. However, the real feel of temperature in both districts was 50 degree Celsius and the situation remained miserable for the locals. In Peshawar, the temperature remained at 38 degree Celsius while the humidity ratio was 75 percent but the real feel of the temperature was about 48 degree Celsius.

LHC stops ECP from taking final decision in contempt case against Imran

LAHORE (Online): The Lahore High Court (LHC) on Tuesday stopped the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) from taking a final decision in a contempt case against Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman Imran Khan. However, the court allowed the commission to continue its proceedings in the matter.

Justice Muhammad Waheed Khan passed the orders while hearing a petition filed by PTI Chairman Imran Khan challenging contempt

proceedings initiated by the ECP against him. The court also issued notices to the ECP and other respondents for the next date of hearing, besides directing to fix the matter before a full bench. The court observed that identical petitions were being heard by the full bench, therefore, the petition should also be fixed before the bench.

The PTI chairman, through the petition, had assailed constitutional vires of Section 10 of the Election Act 2017.

International News

North Korea plans satellite launch as Seoul, US hold drills

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea is planning to launch another satellite just three months after its first attempt to put a military eye in the sky failed, prompting condemnation from Tokyo and Seoul on Tuesday and demands to call it off.

The launch is set to take place between August 24 and 31, Pyongyang told Japan's coast guard Tuesday, with Tokyo mobilising ships and its PAC-3 missile defence system in case it lands in their territory.

Seoul said the launch would be "an illegal act" because it violates UN sanctions prohibiting the North from tests using ballistic technology, which is used for both space launches and missiles.

"North Korea's so-called 'satellite launch' is a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions... No matter what excuses North Korea tries to make, it cannot justify this illegal act," South Korea's Unification Ministry said in a statement.

said Seoul would "respond sternly to the North's illicit provocation with close trilateral Korea-US-Japan cooperation".

Pyongyang's announcement came days after

ter leaders from Washington, Seoul and Tokyo met at Camp David in the United States, with North Korea's growing nuclear threats a key item on the agenda.

Japan, South Korea criticise North Korea satellite launch plan

Monitoring Desk
TOKYO: North Korea told Japan on Tuesday that it would launch a satellite between Aug. 24-31, its second such attempt this year, prompting criticism from Japan and South Korea that any such actions would be "extremely regrettable".

North Korea told Japan's Coast Guard on Tuesday that the launch would fly over the Yellow Sea, East China Sea and the Pacific, areas that Japan said are outside its exclusive economic zone.

The announcement came just days after the leaders of the United States, Japan and South Korea held their first standalone summit to project unity in the face of China's growing power and North Korea's nuclear threats.

North Korea launched a satellite on May 31 that ended up plunging into the sea. The new Chollima-1 launcher failed because of instability in the engine and fuel system, state news agency KCNA reported.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called on North Korea to halt any planned launches and said Japan was preparing its PAC-3 missile defence system and gathering information.

Kyiv says EU transport subsidies to help Ukrainian grain export

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: The European Commission's decision to compensate for the costs of delivering Ukrainian grain to European seaports will improve the ability to export Ukrainian food without interruption, a senior Ukrainian official said on Tuesday.

Ukraine is a major grain grower and exporter and normally ships millions of metric tons of food from its deep-water Black Sea ports of Odesa and Mykolaiv. However, it has had to rely on river ports and railways after Russia pulled out last month of an U.N.-brokered deal to secure global grain supplies while top exporters Ukraine and Russia remain at war.

Ukraine has said it can supply grain to seaports of

Germany, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Croatia, Slovenia and the Netherlands for further export to final destinations across the world.

"It is impossible to guarantee global food security without Ukrainian grain," Taras Vysotskiy, the first deputy Ukrainian agriculture minister said in a statement.

He said that due to the blocked Black Sea ports, transporting Ukrainian grain to distant European ports had become very expensive for farmers.

"The Ministry of Agrarian Policy and the Government have appealed to the European Commission to compensate Ukrainian farmers for the cost of logistics for 30 euro (\$32.55) per tonne," he said.

Erdogan blames UN peacekeepers after Cyprus assault

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday accused United Nations peacekeepers of instigating violence in which several members of the agency's mission were assaulted on Cyprus. The United Nations said Turkish Cypriot forces on Friday attacked peacekeepers who were attempting to block construction of a road in the buffer zone separating the divided east Mediterranean island. The confrontation occurred in an ethnically mixed village in the UN-patrolled area between the internationally recognised Republic of Cyprus in the south and the breakaway Turkish Cypriot statelet in the north.



President Ebrahim Raisi listens to Chief of Aviation Industries of Armed Forces Gen. Afshar Khajehfard, as Defense Minister Gen. Mohammad Reza Gharahi and Ashtiani listens, during a ceremony unveiling a drone called the Mohajer-10.

Poland's leader says Russia's moving tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus, shifting regional security

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland's President Andrzej Duda said Tuesday that Russia already is in the process of shifting some short-range nuclear weapons to neighboring Belarus, a move that Duda said will shift the security architecture of the region and the entire NATO military alliance.

Both Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko said last month that Moscow already had shipped some

of its tactical nuclear weapons to Belarus after announcing the plan in March. The U.S. and NATO haven't confirmed the move. NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg denounced Moscow's rhetoric as "dangerous and reckless," but said in July that the alliance hadn't seen any change in Russia's nuclear posture.

Tactical nuclear weapons are intended for use on the battlefield and have a short range and a low yield compared with much more

powerful nuclear warheads fitted to long-range missiles. Russia said it would maintain control over those it sends to Belarus.

Duda made his comments at a joint news conference with visiting Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.

"I was telling President (Sousa) about the implementation of the declarations by Vladimir Putin that Russia's tactical nuclear weapons will be moved to the territory of Belarus," Duda said.

Russian strikes kill eight 'fighters' in Syria

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: Eight fighters died on Monday in Russian air strikes targeting a rebel base in Syria's northwest, the last major bastion of armed opposition to President Bashar al-Assad's rule, a war monitor said.

Moscow's intervention since 2015 has helped Damascus claw back much of the territory it had lost to rebel forces early in the 12-year civil war, and Russian forces have repeatedly struck the Idlib area.

Early on Monday, "Russian warplanes carried out air strikes on the west-

ern outskirts of Idlib city, targeting a military base belonging to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS)... killing at least eight fighters," said Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. Several other fighters were wounded in the strikes, with some in critical condition, said the Britain-based monitor which relies on a wide network of sources inside Syria. Militant group HTS, led by Syria's former Al Qaeda affiliate, controls swathes of Idlib province, as well as parts of the adjacent Latakia, Hama, and Aleppo provinces.

Turk Cypriots accuse U.N. of bias in road construction dispute

Monitoring Desk
NICOSIA: Turkish Cypriots on Tuesday accused the United Nations of bias in a dispute over a road construction project that led to the most serious incidents of tension in years on the ethnically divided island last week.

Scuffles broke out on Friday between U.N. peacekeepers and Turkish Cypriot security personnel when peacekeepers attempted to prevent construction work in an area the U.N. mission in Cyprus.

Iran unveils drone resembling America's MQ-9 Reaper & says it could potentially reach Israel

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's Defense Ministry unveiled a drone on Tuesday resembling America's armed MQ-9 Reaper, claiming that the aircraft is capable of staying airborne for 24 hours and has the range to reach the country's arch-enemy Israel. Iran's state-run IRNA news agency published a photograph of the drone, called the Mohajer-10, on display at a conference marking Defense Industry Day with what appeared to be smoke-machine fog underneath it.

"Mohajer" means "immigrant" in Farsi and has been a drone line manufactured by the Islamic Republic since 1985.

IRNA said the drone is able to fly up to 24,000 feet with a speed of 210 kph (130 mph), carrying a bomb payload of up to 300 kilograms

(660 pounds). It also said the drone could carry electronic surveillance equipment and a camera. Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, a protégé of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also viewed the drone on Tuesday.

"Today, we can firmly introduce Iran as an advanced and technologic nation to the world," Raisi said in comments aired on state television. He reiterated Iran's stance about friendly relations with "all countries in the world," adding that Iran's armed forces will cut off any hand that will reach out in an attempt to invade Iran, state TV reported.

The Associated Press could not immediately verify the claims about the drone's capabilities, though an arm of state television shared a video of it taking off from a runway.

China lodges complaint over US-Japan-S. Korea statement

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China said on Monday it had lodged complaints over a statement released at a first-of-its-kind summit of the leaders of the United States, South Korea and Japan in which they criticised Beijing's "aggressive behaviour".

US President Joe Biden hosted the summit — described as launching a "new chapter" of close, three-way security cooperation — at the Camp David presidential retreat.

The three leaders said in a joint statement on Friday they opposed the "dangerous and aggressive behaviour" of China in maritime disputes in the East and South China Sea.

Beijing hit back on Monday, saying the leaders had "smeared and attacked China on Taiwan-related and maritime issues, grossly interfered in China's internal affairs and deliberately sowed discord between China and its neighbours".

It also expressed "strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition and has lodged solemn representations with relevant parties", foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said at a regular news briefing.

Camp David marks the first time the leaders of the United States, Japan and South Korea have met for a standalone summit, rather than on the sidelines of a larger event.

"If relevant countries really care about peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait, they should abide by the One-China principle, stop condoning and supporting separatists advocating for Taiwan independence and their activities, and take concrete actions to safeguard regional peace and stability," Wang said on Monday.

"The Taiwan question is purely China's internal affair. Solving the Taiwan question is China's own business", he added.

Interim government fixes Diyat amount at Rs 67,57,902 for FY24

ISLAMABAD (APP): On the recommendation of the finance ministry, the Interim Federal Cabinet on Tuesday fixed the amount of Diyat, which is equal to 30,630 grams of silver, at Rs 67,57,902 for the year 2023-24. In Islamic law Diyat is the financial compensation paid to the victim or heirs of a victim in the cases of murder, bodily harm or property damage by mistake.

The meeting of the cabinet was held here under the chairmanship of Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq. During the meeting, the

prime minister informed the meeting about his previous day's visit to Jaranwala. He said extremism and religious agitation will never be allowed in the country and protection of minorities in Pakistan was the foremost duty of the state. He expressed his resolve to punish all those involved in the incident of Jaranwala.

The meeting recommended to organize a national level inter-faith harmony conference next week. Scholars of different religions and schools of thought would be invited to it. The conference will prove to be

an important milestone for the promotion of inter-faith harmony in Pakistan.

Earlier addressing the cabinet, the prime minister said the caretaker government's prime mandate was to assist and monitor the electoral process which was the constitutional requirement. He said keeping in mind the prime mandate, the caretaker government would monitor its day-to-day activities to the best of its abilities. "We are here as a constitutional continuation for a limited period of time and we are not here to design the government model or structure," the prime minister said while addressing the cabinet meeting here.

He maintained that as a continuation of the previous government, the caretaker setup was generally supposed to carry on with the general policy until and unless there were any violations of rules or business.

"The National Assembly has retired and we are waiting for the new elections," he said adding the second arm of the parliament-the Upper House was still there but it could not do legislation alone till there was the Lower House.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr Arif Alvi in a group photo with a delegation of Old Age Home, Aafiyat Multan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.



KARACHI: A delegation of MQM called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Sami Saeed vows to step up CPEC projects' momentum

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives Muhammad Sami Saeed on Tuesday vowed to vigorously maintain and step up the momentum of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.

He expressed these views while chairing a meeting to review progress made on the CPEC projects, a news release said.

Chief Economist and Head of CPEC Dr Nadeem Javaid presented an in-depth overview of the advancements associated with the CPEC projects.

The meeting was attended by Planning Secretary Syed Zafar Ali Shah, officials from the CPEC Secretariat, and the ministry.

The minister underlined that the caretaker government would maintain the pace of pivotal development projects.

In that regard, Sami Saeed expressed a fervent commitment to sustain the momentum of ongoing CPEC projects. Underlining the transformative potential of CPEC, the minister reaffirmed that the caretaker government was mandated to sustain the acceleration of all development initiatives, with CPEC being accorded the utmost importance.

Wasi Shah assumes charge of Chairman PTDC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Wasi Shah the recently appointed Minister of State for Tourism assumed the charge of Chairman Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) here on Tuesday.

On his maiden visit to the PTDC Head Office, he was greeted by the Managing Director of PTDC, Aftab ur Rehman Rana and gave a comprehensive briefing on the functions, operations, and role of the corporation as a national tourism organisation.

The minister appreciated the efforts of the PTDC team for the promotion of tourism and developing effective coordination with provincial tourism departments and the private sector within their limited resources.

President stresses special measures for welfare of elderly, poor

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday stressed the government institutions, non-governmental organizations, and civil society to work together for the welfare of poor people and elderly in the society.

Talking to a delegation of Old Age Home, Aafiyat Multan here at Aiwan-e-Sadr, he said Islam gave utmost importance to respect the senior citizens.

He said the parents should arrange quality education and training for their

children according to teachings of Islam.

The president said fulfilling the basic rights of the parents must be among the top responsibilities of their children.

"Actions are needed to provide all the basic facilities and necessities of life to the homeless and the elderly", Alvi said.

He urged the philanthropists, welfare organizations and other sections of the society to make special efforts to take care of the elderly.

Humaira Ahmed refusal to serve as Principal Secretary to President of Pak

ISLAMABAD (Online): The President Dr. Arif Alvi had returned the services of his principal secretary Waqar Ahmed yesterday and demanded that Humaira Ahmed be appointed as Secretary.

However Humaira Ahmed has refused to serve as Principal Secretary of President of Pakistan.

Yesterday, President Arif Alvi had written letter to Prime Minister (PM) Principal Secretary Syed Tauqeer Hussain Shah and demanding his Principal Secretary Waqar Ahmed be removed and Humaira Ahmed be made Secretary.

All possible resources to be used to address Karachi issues: PM

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday assured that the government would utilise all possible resources to address the issues faced by the Karachi city.

The prime minister said this in a meeting with a delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement which called on him during his daylong visit here.

The delegation members congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office and expressed good wishes for him.

In the meeting, they discussed the country's overall situation, including economy, interfaith harmony as well as other matters.

The MQM delegation drew the prime minister's attention towards the issues of delimitation in Karachi as well as the shortage of water.

The delegation comprised Dr Farooq Sattar, Syed Aminul Haq and Khawaja Izharul Hassan.

Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori also attended the meeting.

British, Iranian envoys call on Senate Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): British High Commissioner (BHC) Jane Marriott and Iranian Ambassador Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam on Tuesday held separate meetings with Senate Chairman Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest and exploration of avenues for enhanced cooperation between Pakistan and the respective countries.

During the meeting between the Senate chairman and British envoy, issues of paramount importance such as trade, investment, parliamentary cooperation, and public relations between the two nations came under discussion.

The Senate chairman highlighted the need to amplify partnerships between Pakistan and the United Kingdom across various sectors, particularly in the realms of health, education, and technology. He emphasized on fostering collabora-

tion through the mobilization of existing parliamentary friendship groups.

Sanjrani underscored the abundant investment opportunities that Pakistan offers within a favourable economic environment. He highlighted the government's ongoing efforts to promote investment and extend incentives to potential investors.

He underscored that Gwadar was being emerged as a burgeoning economic hub and encouraged British investors to explore investment prospects in the region.

He acknowledged the convergence of Pakistani expatriates in the United Kingdom as a bridge between the two countries.

Jane Marriott praised Pakistan's hospitality and socio-cultural diversity. She affirmed Britain's recognition of Pakistan as a vital partner and expressed eagerness to advance and broaden the bilateral relationship.

Delegation of senior officers visit SSU headquarters

KARACHI (APP): A special delegation of senior officers from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is visiting the Specialized Training Programme at the Information Services Academy visited Special Security Unit (SSU) Headquarters.

The delegation visited different sections of the unit and lauded the professional standards being maintained in the unit, said a news release on Tuesday.

The participants of the delegation also met with DIGP - Security and Emergency Services Division Dr. Maqsood Ahmed and appreciated his efforts in raising a state-of-the-art unit.

Religious tolerance key to peace, stability: NA Speaker

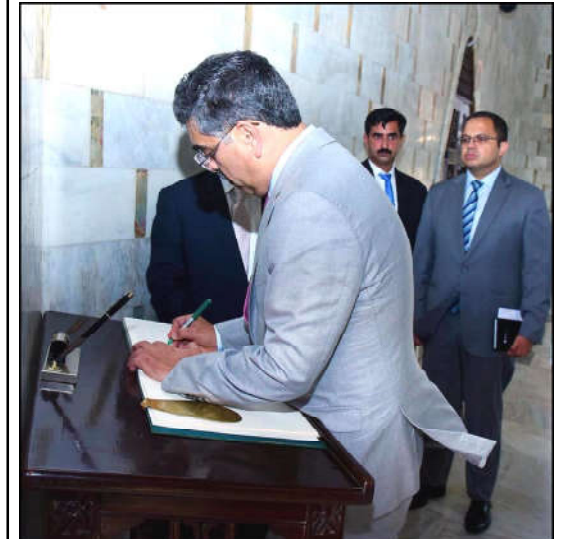
ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf has said that religious tolerance and Inter-Faith Harmony are key for global peace and stability. He expressed these views in his message on "International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief".

The Speaker in a statement, said that acts of violence based on religious belief and faith are condemnable. He also stressed the need for tolerance and forbearance as the prevalent norm in societies.

While highlighting the increasing incidents of hatred and animosity against Indian Muslims by the fascist Modi government, he said that global stakeholders need to take cognisance of the plight of Indian Muslims.

IGP visits special branch

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Riffat Mukhtar visited the Special Branch Complex on Tuesday and reviewed the ongoing affairs in various departments/offices. Earlier, Additional IGP - Special Branch Khadim Hussain Rindh welcomed the IGP Sindh on his arrival. SSPs of Intelligence, Security and Survey of Special Branch were also present on the occasion. The IGP Sindh announced the award of CC-1 certificate to Head Constable Raheel posted in Special Branch for his excellent performance.



KARACHI: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar recording his remarks in visitors' book at Mausoleum of the Father of the Nation, Quaid Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

Toshakhana case: We are not being allowed to meet chairman PTI in jail: Lawyer Sher Afzal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has adjourned till August 24 hearing of petition seeking suspension of sentence given to PTI chairman in Toshakhana case and his release on bail.

The petition came up for hearing before two members bench of IHC presided over by Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Amir Farooq Tuesday.

Amjid Pervez counsel for Election Commission (EC) told the court that he should be given two weeks time for preparations in the case.

The CJ remarked we give you some time but we cannot give two weeks.

The court gave two days time to counsel for EC.

The counsels for chairman PTI complained against not allowing them to meet their client in jail.

Justice Amir Farooq remarked proper order will be issued after seeing the situation.

Sardar Latif Khosa said I oppose to give time to counsel for EC. This will be sheer injustice. The sentence of our client is 3 years.



HYDERABAD: Members of Pakistan Humanist Welfare-Foundation are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of Pinyari Police, at Hyderabad press club.

DC inaugurates Temporary Literacy Center in Nawabshah

HYDERABAD (APP): Deputy Commissioner Shaheryar Gul Memon on Tuesday inaugurated Temporary Literacy Center at Government Primary School Sher Muhammad Magi near Sakrand Town.

Addressing the occasion DC said that adequate losses occurred during previous floods and rains in the district while school buildings also sustained damages.

He said that steps are being taken for the reconstruction of schools where ever damaged due to rains in the district. DC said that the damaged schools are temporarily converted into Temporary Literacy Center so that loss of education of children could be prevented.

DC thanked UNICEF and Thar Deep Rural Development who apart from providing Temporary Literacy Center also provided bags and books to students.

On the occasion District Education Officer Primary Masood Ahmed Sahito, District Coordinator RSU Maroof Bhatti, Syed Qurban Ali Shah and others were also present on the occasion. Later DC planted a sapling at Sweet Home of Pakistan Baitul Mal with the cooperation of RF an organization of Jamaat Islami and inaugurated the tree plantation campaign. DC said that more and more trees should be planted in order to prevent the environment from contamination and keep the temperature at a low level in the district by turning it green.



HYDERABAD: Members of District Hindu Panchayat Hyderabad are holding protest demonstration against attack on churches in Jaranwala, at Hyderabad press club.

Consultative session on 'Implementation of Action Plan on Human Rights' held

KARACHI (APP): A consultative session on 'Implementation of Action Plan on Human Rights' was held here on Tuesday.

The session was organized by the Ministry of Human Rights Pakistan in collaboration with Provincial Task Force, a committee said.

While briefing the participants, the officials of the Ministry informed that legislation pertaining to the women, persons with disabilities and transgender

rights had been carried out.

They said that the National Task Force and Provincial Task Forces were constituted to implement the Action Plan in 2016.

They said that 1099 line had been introduced to register complaints on Human Rights violations and seek legal help.

On the occasion, the participants stressed the need for making Human Rights activities more effective.

Raids underway to arrest of PTI leader Zartaj Gul

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti-corruption started raids to arrest PTI leader and former state minister Zartaj Gul Wazir.

Anti-corruption and Punjab Police raided Zartaj Gul's house in Dera Ghazi Khan yesterday.

Anti-corruption officials say that Zartaj Gul is wanted in a case of corruption and kickbacks. We searched her house but she was not present at home.

Electricity tariff likely to go up Rs 2.07 per unit

ISLAMABAD (Online): Preparations are underway to drop electricity bombshell on the consumers.

The electricity tariff is likely to scale up by Rs 2.07 for power distribution companies.

CPPA GA has filed application in NEPRA seeking hike in power tariff under monthly fuel charges adjustment.

In the event of approval, an additional burden of Rs 35 billion will be shifted to the consumers. NEPRA will hear the plea of Central Power Purchasing Agency on August 30.



KARACHI: Jam-at-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference held at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Renowned Linguist Dr. Ghulam Haider Buriro passes away at age 83

Independent Report KARACHI: Dr. Ghulam Haider Buriro (aka Dr. Haider Sindh), an acclaimed linguist and author, passed away on 18 August



2023 at the age of 83. Dr. Haider Sindh was born in 1940 in the village Mubarak Khan Buriro, District Naushahro Feroze in Sindh province.

After receiving his early education from H.M. Khawaja High School in Nawabshah, Dr. Haider Sindh went on to become a professor at Qaid-e-Azam University in Islamabad in 1970. Over the course of his prolific career, he authored approximately 35 books, including the influential "Sindhi Boli ja Sarchashma" and the Government of Pakistan certified "Hayat e Qalander Shahbaz."

Dr. Haider Sindh earned the distinction of

being the first PhD holder from Nawabshah district. His doctorate was in Linguistics from the University of Sindh. In addition to teaching, he served as Director of the National Institute of Pakistan Studies (NIPS) department at Qaid-e-Azam University and also worked at Radio Pakistan.

His seminal research on the Sindhi language and advocacy for mother tongue education left an indelible impact on the field of linguistics. According to distinguished colleague Dr. Ahmed, "Dr. Haider Sindh was instrumental in advancing our understanding of Sindhi language and dialects. His scholarly works will continue to be invaluable references for generations."

Dr. Haider Sindh's illustrious career earned him widespread acclaim and recognition. His tireless efforts to promote Sindhi language education will not be forgotten.

The linguistics community has lost a pioneer, but Dr. Haider Sindh's legacy shall endure through his transformative scholarship and writings.

SC disposes of NAB petition seeking cancellation of Maryam bail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has wrapped up NAB petition seeking revocation of bail of PML-N chief organizer Maryam Nawaz being withdrawn by anti-graft watchdog.

NAB plea came up for hearing before a 3-member bench of SC presided over by the Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial Tuesday.

NAB withdrew petition against Maryam Nawaz and the court dismissed the plea.

NAB filed written reply in the court in the case.

CJP directed NAB Prosecutor to read out written reply.

NAB prosecutor told the court case related to Maryam Nawaz remained no more maintainable following NAB amendments. Please wrap up the petition instead of dismissing it.

Karachi police confirm arrest of PTI leader Raja Azhar

KARACHI (INP): Karachi police on Tuesday confirmed the arrest of a former Sindh Assembly MPA and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Raja Azhar.

According to the details, East Investigation Police revealed the arrest of former assembly member Raja Azhar and will be produced in the Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC). The police stated that the PTI leader is accused of vandalism and arson Rangers check post, public and private property near Shahrae Faisal on May 09.

Several cases were registered against the politician in different police stations across the metropolis.



KARACHI: Members of Christian Community are holding protest demonstration against attack on churches in Jaranwala incident and demanding for Justice, held at Karachi press club.