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Pays tribute to sacrifices of brave and resilient tribal No option for terrorists except to submit to writ of state: COAS

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

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir on Monday said the surge in terrorism in the recent past was a futile effort on the part of terrorists to get the talks re-initiated, however, there was no option for them except to submit to the writ of state before they were decimated, if they persisted on their wrong path.

The Army Chief made these remarks during his visit to Peshawar. The COAS laid a floral wreath at Yaadgar-e-Shuhada at Fort Bala Hisar (Headquarters Frontier Corps Khyber Pakhtunkhwa - North) and

offered Fatiha, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The COAS met tribal elders from Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as well as notables from all walks of life.

"With the unflinching resolve of the Nation, Pakistan is successfully countering terrorism to enable a stable and peaceful environment for socioeconomic development in the area," the COAS remarked.

The COAS reiterated, "Terrorism has no place in Pakistan and the involvement of Afghan nationals in terrorist incidents in Paki-

stan is detrimental to regional peace, stability and deviation from the Doha Peace Agreement by the interim Afghan Government."

He also said, "Pakistan has concerns over sanctuaries available to banned outfits and liberty of action they enjoy on Afghan soil. Pakistan will spare no effort to dismantle terrorist networks and protect its citizens at all costs."

During an interactive session, the COAS paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of brave and resilient tribals of Pakistan and appreciated their indomitable

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

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

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

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

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

just words but true implementation".

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Apex Committee of SIFC approves projects for attracting investments

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

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

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

The Apex Committee appreciated the global impact of the ongoing outreach

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"We gave five names for care taker Prime Minister (PM) but they did not appear on TV. Rana Sana Ullah knows better than me. Perhaps he may have known more than me care taker PM is coming who, I pray election are held till November", he said this while talking to media men

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

Rana Sana Ullah had disclosed that the name of Ishaq Dar and Shahid Khaqan Abbasi are not included in those who have been shortlisted for the slot of care taker PM.

The name of care taker PM will be decided till Tuesday or Wednesday, he pointed out.

Last session of Balochistan Assembly summoned

Independent Report
QUETTA: The session of Balochistan Assembly is scheduled to be held today (Tuesday) here in Quetta.

According to an official notification issued here by the Balochistan provincial assembly secretary on Monday, the Governor Malik Abdul Wali Kakar has summoned the session, which is going to be the last one of the incumbent assembly.

As per schedule, the session has been summoned at 04:00 PM today.

It may be mentioned here that the incumbent provincial assembly is completing its due five years tenure on August 12, 2023.

Rubaba Buledi says Compiling 209 year laws; a big achievement of GoB

QUETTA (APP): Parliamentary Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Science and IT Dr. Rubaba Khan Buledi has said that it is indeed a feather in the cap of the incumbent provincial government to consolidate the 209-year laws of Balochistan's history.

"All the officers of the law department deserve praise, she expressed these views while addressing a simple but dignified ceremony of awarding excellence certificates to the officers of law and parliamentary affairs on Monday.

Secretary Law and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Saboor Kakar and senior officers of the department were also present.



QUETTA: Country Head UNHCR Noriko Yoshida meeting with Balochistan Chief Secretary Abdul Aziz Uqaili



SIBI: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar cutting ribbon to restore Sibi-Harnai railway section

Governor inaugurates restoration of Sibi-Harnai rail section after 19 years

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar inaugurated the restoration of Sibi-Harnai railway section on Monday.

The inaugural ceremony arranged at the Sibi Railway Station was attended by the parliamentary leader of Balochistan National Party, Malik Nasser Ahmed Shahwani, former Minister and provincial President of PML-N, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail, former Provincial Minister, Abdul Rahim Ziaratwal, Divisional Superintendent of Railways Quetta, Fareed Ahmed besides other concerned high ups, administrative officers and elites.

The Federal Minister Railways, Khawaja Saad Rafiq and Federal Minister Narcotics Control, Nawabzada Shahzain Bugti participated in the ceremony through video link.

Speaking at the inauguration of Sibi-Harnai railway section, the Governor

said that the restoration of railway track between the twin historic cities of Harnai and Sibi would put positive impacts on the overall economy and agriculture of the area.

He said that the students of Harnai and Ziarat districts would also be able to avail the opportunities of higher education with restoration of the railway track. While on the other hand, the commerce and trade activities would also get tremendous boost in the area after restoration of the communication links with rest of the country and province, adding Governor believed. The Governor also mentioned that the incumbent federal government is committed to reconstruct the national highways besides restoring the railway lines.

He said that the longstanding issues of the people would be resolved by putting the railway system on modern lines and providing the travelling facilities to them.

At least 7 including UC chairman killed in Turbat blast

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

Levies officials said that the explosion took place when the vehicle was passing through Balgatar. The vehicle was completely destroyed in the explosion.

Levies officials said that the explosion was caused by a remote controlled device.

Cop killed, two injured in terrorists' attack

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

As a result of firing constable Yar Muhammad embraced martyrdom on the spot while a police sub-inspector and another constable received critical bullet injuries. A police team reached the spot and shifted the dead and injured to the hospital.

Pakistan, Oman for increasing bilateral cooperation

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

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

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

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

He informed the delega-

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

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

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

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

The two sides also stressed the need to increase high-level contacts to further cement bilateral ties.

The president also briefed the delegation about the grave human rights situation in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.



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

Govt. withdraws PEMRA Amendment Bill 2023

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

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

The information minister introduced the bill which was comprehensively discussed during the meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Information and Broadcasting, a Senate Secretariat press release said.

The meeting was presided over by Senator Fawzia Arshad.

Senior journalists from key electronic media organizations in Pakistan and representatives from various media associations attended the meeting to discuss the legislation.

During the meeting, the information minister acknowledged the importance of the legislation and emphasized her positive intentions behind proposing it.

After careful consideration and receiving 28 amendments from different stakeholders, the sponsor of the bill made the decision to withdraw it to further refine the legislation.

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

Shows solidarity with bereaved families: Martyr lawyers of 8th August can never be forgotten: CM

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has stated that the grief and agony of the martyrs of civil hospital tragedy on August 8, 2016 is still fresh in our hearts and minds, and as such they can never be forgotten.

In a statement issued on the eve of 7th death anniversary of 8th August, 2016 tragedy that had claimed lives of 73 persons including 56 lawyers, two media persons besides others and left around injured, the Chief Minister said that the coward terrorists had targeted the educated and conscious segment of the society.

Expressing solidarity with the bereaved families of the martyrs, the Chief Minister said that people and government of the province shared their grief

equally. He said that the lawyers of Balochistan are ranked among the best lawyers of the country, who have better awareness about law and legal affairs. He said that the programme is being implemented to fill the gap caused due to the tragedy in the important sector by providing the young lawyers higher educational opportunities abroad on scholarship.

Moreover, the Chief Minister mentioned that the government of Balochistan has also given the special grant-in-di for the Pakistan Bar Council, Balochistan Bar Council and all district bar associations in the province. In addition to this, budget has been allocated for the grant in budget for financial year 2023-24 so as to provide best facilities to the lawyers, he maintained.

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

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

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

Recalling the historic moment, the Senate highlighted the abrogation of Articles 35-A and 370 of the Indian Constitution by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government on August 5, 2019. The move

effectively stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its autonomy and led to the division of the state into two Union territories.

The Senate firmly rejected India's actions, deeming them illegal and in direct violation of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions.

The Senate expressed its deep concern over the blatant violation of human rights by the Indian government and the escalation of human rights violations by Indian occupation forces in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). These actions were deemed to infringe upon the

civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights of the Kashmiri people.

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

The Senate strongly condemned state-sponsored terrorism and crimes against humanity perpetuated by Indian occupation

forces in IIOJK. It acknowledged the efforts of international human rights organizations and the media, as well as international parliamentary fora, particularly the European Parliament, for their steadfast concerns regarding the severe human rights violations in the IIOJK.

Calling upon the global community to support the freedom struggles of the Kashmiri people, the Senate drew parallels to the international support extended to Ukraine during the Russian-Ukrainian conflict.



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



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

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

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan has once again extended invitation to India for talks for just resolution of Kashmir issue saying the atmosphere will have to be created for meaningful talks for development in the region and establishment of peace. "We are concerned over use of Afghan soil in attack in Zhub in Balochistan. All the terrorists killed in attack were Afghan citizens. Decision has been taken to send cricket team to participate in world cup in India. We have never mixed sports with politics. There are security concerns. Paki-

stani team will have to be provided fool proof security. We are concerned over targeting minorities in India. We strongly condemn setting ablaze mosques and martyring Imam in India, this was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in weekly press briefing here Monday.

She said foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari undertook 36 foreign trips. The foreign minister visited countries including US, Europe and African countries. He attended different conferences during his visits. He highlighted Kashmir issue during his visits.

Decision in Toshakhana case challenged in SC

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

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

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

The petitioner has prayed the court to nullify Toshakhana decision.

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

Interior Minister terms NACTA true reflection of anti-terrorism efforts

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

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

Khan said the reforms in the Authority were completed and it was performing its role in a befitting manner. He directed that in view of the resurgence of terrorism and recent events, a clear and comprehensive policy should be formulated immediately.

"I hope that NACTA will spare no effort as a

front-line organisation in counter-terrorism strides and all provinces and other relevant organizations will implement this strategy," the Interior Minister said.

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

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

National Coordinator, NACTA Muhammad Tahir Rai gave a detailed briefing to the meeting. Rai informed the forum that based on the decision of the last meeting, the organization of NACTA was almost completed. He said NACTA remained very active over the past year, whereas a national narrative was formulated on the basis of the Paigham-e-Pakistan Fatwa, which was essentially the foundation of Pakistani society.

BISP marks remarkable progress in alleviating poverty: Shazia

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

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

those most in need.

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

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

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

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

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

DC Kalat holds meeting regarding Independence Day preparations

QUETTA (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kalat Munir Ahmed Durrani on Monday presided over a meeting in connection with preparations of Independence Day to celebrate on August 14 with zeal.

DSP Manzoor Ahmad Mengal Tehsildar Manguchar Mehmood Kurd along with heads of all government departments participated in the meeting.

In the meeting, a discussion was held regarding the celebrations on the occasion of Pakistan's Independence Day.

In the events, flag hoisting will be held in school and colleges, songs, tableau oration competitions, football matches, tug-of-war and other events will be organized, said in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner said that August 14 was our freedom day, our elders gave us the gift of a free country Pakistan by making great sacrifices, we should give value this freedom day.

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

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

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

Govt. withdraws PEMRA...

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and conduct of business in the Senate, 2012, the bill was officially withdrawn, as announced by the Chair.

Besides committee members including senators Irfan Siddiqui, Muhammad Tahir Bizinjo, Kamran Michael, Waqar Mehdi, Anwar Lal Dean, Kamran Murtaza, and Mushtaq Ahmed, senior officials of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, senior journalists, and the PEMRA chairman attended the meeting.

The meeting concluded, intending to refine the bill to ensure its effectiveness in regulating the electronic media landscape in Pakistan.

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

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

Marriyum Aurangzeb said as a minister she had always faced criticism with a smile. She faced shouting incidents even at Masjid Nabawi (SAW) and in London too without being intimidated.

She recalled her struggle for freedom of ex-

pression, citing her protests along with the PML-N leadership outside Kot Lakhpat Jail and Attock Jail.

The minister said consultations on the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023 with all stakeholders continued for over 12 months.

The minister said the bill was meant to protect the rights of journalists, and media workers. Besides, Article 19 of the Constitution, definition of misinformation and disinformation were also added in the PEMRA (Amendment) Bill 2023.

All the media organizations, including All Pakistan Newspapers Society, Council of Newspaper Editors and Pakistan Broadcasters Association were involved in the consultation process, she added.

The minister said an attempt was made in the past to implement the black law of Pakistan Media Department Authority, but all the then opposition parties stood against it along with the media organizations.

She said the government was cognizant of the medical issues of journalists and media workers so it had launched the health insurance card scheme for them.

Marriyum said as per the PEMRA (Amendment) Bill 2023, it was mandatory for media houses to pay all dues of journalists and workers in two months. An objection was raised over payment of the dues in two months was a violation of labour laws, which was contrary to the facts, she added.

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Govt stabilizes economy with allies' support: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday said without the support of allies, the government could never have done the difficult task of reviving the country's economy alone.

Talking to former Prime Minister Senator Syed Yusuf Raza Gilani and member National Assembly (NA) Ali Musa Gilani here, Shehbaz Sharif thanked Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) for supporting all decisions of the government.

During the meeting, Yusuf Raza Gilani paid tributes to the prime minister for improving the country's economic situation and providing splendid leadership during a difficult time.

They also discussed the overall political situation of the country.

Earlier, PML-N leader and former mayor Rawalpindi Sardar Naseem called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and discussed the overall political situation in the country.

PPP leaders welcome Nawabzada Bangul for joining party

QUETTA (APP) The leaders of Pakistan People's Party Balochistan on Monday said that Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was a nationwide party that believed in serving of people without prejudice instead of slogans and claims.

All the mega projects of the country and the province are owed to the Pakistan People's Party. For 75 years, nationalist and religious parties have dominated here, but they could not change the condition of the area and the people.

Now these people will once again come to the people to ask for votes with new happy slogans and claims, but the people have now recognized the faces

well. The joining of Nawabzada Bangul Jogezaian and his colleagues in Pakistan Peoples Party is welcomed.

These views were expressed by Pakistan People's Party Balochistan President Mir Changaiz Khan Jamali, General Secretary Rozi Khan Kakar. Nawabzada Bangul Khan Jogeza, former provincial minister, executive committee member Nawab Muhammad Khan Shahwani, Provincial Deputy General Secretary Haji Khan Muhammad Barech and other leaders at the public meeting organized for joining of Nawabzada Bangul Khan Jogezaian along with his numbers of colleagues to PPP.

No option for terrorists except...

Continued from page 1
ity of the motherland. It's time to develop all tribal areas and concentrate on youth," the COAS said.

He reiterated the resolve of Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps and other Law Enforcement Agencies in their fight against terrorism, till the elimination of this menace from the country. He showed resolve to finish peril of narcotics which was becoming a life-line for these TTP khawaraj (seceders). The Army Chief said that propaganda by inimical forces against Armed Forces of Pakistan, would be dealt as per the law.

Paying tribute to brave tribesmen, officers and soldiers of Pakistan Army, Frontier Corps (FC), Levies, Khasadars and Police, the COAS vowed that sacrifices of Shuhada would not go in vain and complete peace would return to Pakistan, InshaAllah (By the will of Almighty Allah).

Earlier, upon arrival, the COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps.

Continued from page 1
ther refine the legislation by incorporating appropriate amendments and allow the new government to take it up in the future.

This move was seen as an opportunity for more time, deliberation, and reconciliation on the bill, given the valuable feedback provided by various stakeholders.

Representatives from different media organizations actively participated in the meeting, submitting their own amendments and sharing their perspectives on the bill.

A key point of focus during the discussions was the issue of dues and salaries of media workers.

Members of the committee, journalists, and representatives from media associations underscored the importance of approving the amendments while continuing to deliberate on the rest of the proposed changes rather than completely withdrawing the bill.

Senator Irfan Siddiqui emphasized on keeping the bill on the agenda and going on with the deliberation process, particularly with regard to amendments related to the physical and financial security of journalists. Senator Mushtaq Ahmed advocated for the passage of non-controversial amendments.

To further refine the bill and address matters related to the parliamentary oversight, the Tribunal, Council of Complaints, and submitted amendments, the information minister intimated the call for restarting consultations.

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AC Ziarat reviews measures of Independence Day

QUETTA (APP): Assistant Commissioner (AC) Ziarat Abdullah bin Arif on Monday chaired a meeting of officers in connection with the celebration of Independence Day on August 14th in a grand manner.

Frontier Corps Captain Aurangzeb, District Health Officer Dr. Anwar Mandukhel, District Education Officer Abdul Fayyaz, MS Dr. Irfanuddin, DSP Tahir Mehmood and other officers participated in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Ziarat Abdullah Bin Arif said that like the past, Independence Day would be celebrated in an impressive manner in Ziarat district.

In this regard, a ceremony will be held at the Quid-e-Azam Residency on August 14, in which high officials, tribal elders and people from different schools to be attended.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

TSE # 232408346592 Electronic Bids Only

Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat invites electronic bids as per Balochistan Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (BPPRA) Rules, 2014 from well-reputed, established and experienced **FOOD & REFRESHMENT SERVICES** providers having registration and active status of NTN and BST with Federal Board of Revenue and Balochistan Revenue Authority respectively for supply of Food & Refreshment Services for the financial year 2023-24 year on the basis of following terms & conditions:-

1. The bidder shall not be blacklisted by any of Provincial or Federal Government Department, Agency, Organization or Autonomous Body or Private Sector Organization anywhere in Pakistan.
2. Detailed bidding document can be downloaded from B-PPRA website www.bppra.gob.pk.
3. Single stage two envelope bidding method shall be used as per Rule 41-(3) of the BPPRA Rules, 2014.
4. Contract will be awarded as per the evaluation criteria mentioned in bidding document.
5. Bid can only be submitted electronically on or before **Wednesday 23rd August, 2023 (11:00 am)** through supplier dashboard at the website of B-PPRA.
6. Technical bids will be opened on **Wednesday 23rd August, 2023 (12:00 pm)** through Electronic Public Procurement System (EPPS) at the Committee Room # 05 of Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat, Zarghoon Road Quetta. Financial bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened on the same day at (12:30 pm).
7. Bidding document fee of Rs.1000/- shall be submitted through Green Deposit Challan in National Bank of Pakistan.
8. The bids must accompany Bid Security of Rs.200,000/- in the shape of Call Deposit issued from a scheduled bank in favor of Secretary Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat.
9. Performance Security (2% of the contract value) in the shape of Demand Draft issued from a scheduled bank in favor of Secretary Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat will be required from successful bidder.
10. Bidders shall quote their rates inclusive of all applicable taxes and duties for each and every item enlisted in bidding document.
11. The Balochistan Provincial Assembly Secretariat reserves the right to reject any or all bids as per provisions of B-PPRA Rules, 2014.

CONTACT INFORMATION: Telephone Number: 081-9203079
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Email Address: bpaprocedurement@yahoo.com

Procurement Cell Balochistan Assembly Secretariat Zarghoon Road Quetta

PRQ No.309/07-8-2023

www.dpge.gov.pk @dpge_gov @dpge_gov @dpge_balochistan

PM awards Rs1m to SSC topper; directs govt to fund his edu. till masters degree

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

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

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

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

He sought a commitment from the student to keep up showing excellence in his educational career ahead.

"The bright students like you are the pride of the nation. The credit for your success goes to the hard work of your parents as well as teachers. You are also a role model for other students of the country," the prime minister remarked.



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

Women empowerment: key to socio-economic stability says Raja

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

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

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

is crucial to further the cause of democracy in Pakistan.

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

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

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

PAC directs FIA to probe FPSC's past 15-year appointments

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on Monday directed the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) to carry out an inquiry into the appointments made in the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) for the last 15 years.

Chairing the PAC meeting, Chairman Noor Alam Khan said that FIA should take strict actions against those involved in irregularities, embezzlement and corruption while

appointing the officials in the respective department.

He also urged the authorities concerned of the Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) to conduct an internal audit of the appointments made in the Commission.

The committee reviewed an audit objection related to the FPSC which is a government department. The PAC meeting was attended by officials of different divisions and PAC members.



ISLAMABAD: Workers of Capital Development Authority are cutting the tree into pieces to clear the roads for smooth traffic as a number of trees were fallen down due to the speedy winds during rainy weather last night in Federal Capital.

IESCO launches construction of country's 1st AMI laboratory

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

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

vices along with strong infrastructure and new technology.

With the implementation of AMI project, elimination of electricity theft, correct meter reading, and elimination of overloading on the system will definitely be possible.

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



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

Dubai welcomes over 8.55m visitors in 6 months surpassing pre-pandemic levels

ISLAMABAD (APP): Dubai's tourism industry exceeded pre-pandemic international visitation figures during the first half of 2023, welcoming 8.55 million international visitors from January to June.

This impressive achievement marks a 20 percent year-on-year growth and surpasses the 8.36 million tourists recorded in the same period of 2019.

The latest data, released by the emirate's Department of Economy and Tourism, showcases Dubai's determination to secure its position as the world's most visited destination.

He credited Dubai's resilient leadership and visionary policies for the city's swift recovery in the wake of global challenges,

positioning it as a major global tourism destination and a pivotal hub for trade, investment, and enterprise.

The outstanding performance in the first half of 2023 aligns with the Dubai Economic Agenda 2033, a visionary initiative led by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, which aims to solidify the emirate's status as one of the world's top three cities.

Western Europe, the GCC, MENA, South Asia, and other regions all contributed to the emirate's robust tourism industry, indicating the city's widespread appeal across vari-

ous markets.

The emirate's hospitality sector showcased remarkable growth in the first half of 2023, with hotels outperforming pre-pandemic metrics across all key indicators.

Hotel occupancy averaged 78 percent during this period, ranking among the highest in the world and highlighting the city's strong appeal. Dubai's average daily rate (ADR) increased by 20 percent to AED534, while Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) surged by 24 percent to AED415 compared to the first half of 2019.

PIMS new emergency block to be expanded

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

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

IHC moved for shifting Imran from Attock Jail to Adiala jail

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has been moved for shifting PTI chairman to Adiala jail here Monday.

A petition has been filed in IHC seeking court's order for shifting PTI chairman from Attock Jail to Adiala jail here Monday.

Naeem Panjtoha counsel for PTI chairman filed the petition. It has been pleaded in the petition that his legal team be allowed to meet chairman PTI in jail. PTI chairman be provided facilities of A class in jail. His personal physician, family members and senior leaders of party be allowed to meet chairman PTI.

On the other hand interior ministry has granted approval to give B class in jail to Imran Khan. Imran Khan will be allowed to meet his family members one day in a week in jail.

IHC serves notices in pleas for removal of Asad, Anwar from ECL

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Monday served notices to respondents in a petition seeking to remove the names of former National Assembly speaker Asad Qaiser and Member of the National Assembly Anwar Taj from the Exit Control List (ECL).

Chief Justice Aamer Farooq heard the case filed by the petitioners through their Sher Afzal Murawat Advocate.

Senate body for stern action against illegal nursing colleges

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Sub-Standing Committee on National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination on Monday directed the ministry concerned to take strict action against illegal nursing colleges in the country.

The committee meeting was chaired by its Convener Senator Rubina Khalid to look into the affairs and the performance of institutions registered with the Pakistan Nursing Council (PNC), their affiliation with the hospitals and fake degrees or certificates issued to nurses.

She directed to start action against bogus nursing colleges and submit a report to the committee within one month. She also directed to make a mechanism to improve the standard of nursing institutions.

The convener committee directed to submit details about all new nursing colleges, which were registered during the tenure of Registrar PNC Fauzia Mushtaq. She also directed to ensure the presence of the new President and Vice President of the PNC.



ISLAMABAD: Students are crossing the busy Kernal Sher Khan Shaheed Road due to the lack of over head pedestrian bridge, which may cause any incident any time.

Ahsan links political stability to sustained development

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning and Development Ahsan Iqbal has said that peace and stability are important for the development of the country.

Addressing a ceremony organized on the occasion of World Hepatitis C Eradication Awareness Day at PKLI on Monday, he said the country was facing a critical situation and it was not possible to put the country on the path to development with five years of musical chairs. "For sustained development, continuous work must be done on ten-year planning. When we assumed office, the country was facing a default but we have put the economy back on track and if given another chance, the PML-N will continue its plans to make the country an Asian Tiger," Ahsan said.

"If you look at the history of fifty years of Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Thailand, China and Turkey, there is peace, stability and continuity of policies in development and we will have to get rid of T20 matches in the political field". The

minister said that when the country was recovering and heading towards prosperity, a smart person was brought in, which made the state miserable. "A clumsy person ruined the national economy. If someone says that a sick person could be treated by a smart doctor of Gulab Devi instead of a specialist doctor of PKLI, then the patient would never recover."

He said that under the leadership of Shehbaz Sharif, the government had tried to fix the economy by taking "tough" decisions in fourteen months. "We tried to change the direction of Pakistan. People were betting that Pakistan would default in two or four weeks but now the world's point of view about our economy has changed," he added.

Talking about health and education, Ahsan said, "The population rate in Pakistan has increased from 2.3% to 2.8% and diabetes and hepatitis have become major diseases. If provincial and federal governments contribute Rs34 billion, hepatitis can be eliminated forever in three years."

Tarar says: Maintenance of graveyards in Islamabad to be ensured

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Law and Justice, Azam Nazeer Tarar, emphasized on Monday the crucial role of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in maintaining the graveyards in Islamabad and assured that the relevant ministry will take responsibility for this task in the future. The minister made these remarks while addressing a calling attention notice in the National Assembly, which highlighted the alleged negligence of the CDA in maintaining the H-8 and H-11 graveyards. He also noted the untimely availability of bus services for the H-11 graveyard. The minister further announced that the Ministry of Interior will be asked to initiate a bus service for the H-11 graveyard, ensuring timely transportation. He emphasized the importance of proper cleanliness in the area.

UNDP representative calls on Ayaz

ISLAMABAD (Online): The Resident Representative UNDP calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in Islamabad today.

The newly appointed Resident Representative United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Mr. Samuel Rizk, paid a courtesy call on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, in Islamabad today.

Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, warmly welcomed Mr. Rizk, who has recently joined UNDP Pakistan, as Resident Representative in July 2023 and appreciated UNDP's continued dedication in fostering socio-economic progress in Pakistan. Minister Sadiq reiterated the government's strong resolve to collaborate with the UNDP in implementing projects that yield tangible results and positively impact the lives of the people.

Both Mr. Rizk and Minister Sadiq acknowledged the importance of aligning development efforts with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reaffirmed their commitment to working together towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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

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

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

He said, all political leaders faced troubles during imprisonment but not like Imran Khan Niazi who with twenty-four hours

started crying for home-like facilities in the jail.

He said due to fear of arrest none of the workers of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf came outside the Attock Prison to express solidarity with their leader.

Tarrar also played a leaked audio clip of PTI leader Samsam Bukhari saying that the audio is evidence of Imran Khan's direct involvement in May 9th incidents and attacks on Core Commander's house.

Quoting Bukhari he said that the core committee attended by Qasim Suri, Sharyar Afridi, Murad Saeed, Safiqat Mehmood and Yasmin Rashid decided to protest against Pak Army. "I Salute Samsam Bukhari and Shafiqat Mehmood for opposing the decision of Imran Khan Niazi to attack on Pak Army" Said Tarrar adding "It is a proven fact that May 9th attack on Army Installations was well planned by Imran Khan Niazi.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Federal Minister for Human Rights, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada.

Ambassador of Iran called on HR Minister

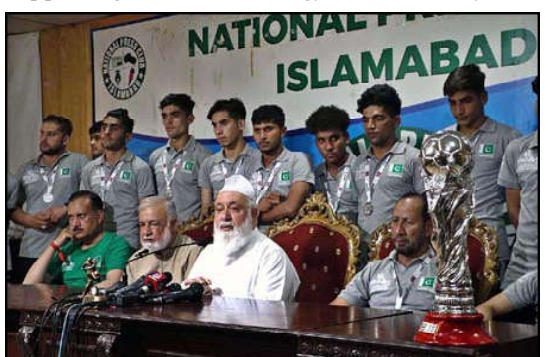
ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Federal Minister for Human Rights Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada Monday in Islamabad. Both sides discussed centuries-old deep strategic and brotherly relations between two countries. Welcoming the ambassador, Minister said that Pakistan greatly values its relations with Iran rooted in cultural, historical and religious bonds. He emphasized to enhance these relations in various areas particularly in economy, energy, culture and human rights.

Ambassador H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam also reciprocated the same about historical bilateral relations and expressed that the people of Iran and Pakistan are tied with the knot of love. They have been living peacefully for centuries without any dispute. Both countries have been supporting each other in the UNO and Iran is now supporting Pakistan in

IMF. He said that Iran has been facing sanctions and pressure from the US due to its upright foreign policies and now this pressure has become an irritant in bilateral relations between Iran and Pakistan.

During the call, Minister expressed that the trio of Muslim countries i.e., Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, is continuously advocating for the rights of Palestinian and Kashmiri people who have been living under oppression and facing gross human rights violations for decades. He further said that Western countries cannot dictate us on human rights if they keep an eye close to such flagrant human rights violations and suppression just because of their own economic interests. He added that Pakistan, besides having its weak economy, has always raised its voice against this oppression.

Ambassador stated that there is huge potential in the Iran-Pakistan gas pipeline that is the way Iran can help its neighboring energy-starved country.



ISLAMABAD: Chairman of Muslim Hands, Syed Lakht Hasnain, is holding a press conference.

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

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

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

He assured the delegation that the ICCI would fully cooperate with their Association in its efforts for the betterment of Bara

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

The sanitation arrangements in Bara Kahu were almost non-existent, while the Bara Kahu market also needed a filtration plant and public toilets. He said there was no parking facility available in the Bara Kahu market and urged the CDA to construct a multi-storied parking plaza in the area.



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

Tuesday August 08, 2023

Into the unknown

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

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

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

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

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

This paper has consistently argued that there should be no delay in holding the polls and that constitutional limits must be respected. However, it seems that political parties are barely concerned about constitutional imperatives, and are themselves willing to bend and break the rules when they want.

Pakistan has long suffered because of a lack of adherence to constitutional norms, and this grim tradition is being upheld by the outgoing government. Provisional census results were ready by May, and if the government had started deliberations then and notified the results earlier, the polls could have been held on time once the legislature was dissolved.

But it appears that the rulers, as well as the establishment, were not keen on holding timely polls lest the PTI made a strong showing. Now that the deed is done, all efforts must be made to hold elections as soon as possible. The ECP needs to complete the delimitation process within a reasonable period, and from thereon no further obstacles should be placed in the way of holding elections.

The only democratic solution to our protracted political and economic crises is for a freely elected civilian government with a fresh mandate to take the reins. The first step in that direction is the announcement of a clear time frame for conducting the polls.



Maleeha Lodhi

When China brokered a historic deal earlier this year that normalised relations between long-time regional rivals, Saudi Arabia and Iran, it came as a huge setback — and challenge — for the Biden administration. The rapprochement left the US diplomatically marginalised in the Middle East and undermined several of its regional goals, most notably isolating Iran and normalising relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel. By playing a mediatory role, China established itself as a major player and power broker in the Middle East, much to Washington's discomfort. The US barely concealed its unease with this potentially game-changing development, which has already realigned relations among regional states and begun to transform the strategic

landscape there.

Now the Biden administration is trying to get back in the game in the Middle East and contain growing Chinese influence there. President Joe Biden acknowledged that efforts are in progress for a deal with Riyadh aimed at establishing ties between Saudi Arabia and Israel. On July 28, he told donors at a fundraiser for his 2024 election bid, that "a rapprochement may be underway". He did not reveal more. However, details about his new 'plan' were disclosed a day earlier in a New York Times op-ed by Thomas Friedman, who had interviewed the president the previous week. According to him, the Biden administration was considering a "big Middle East deal". This would involve Saudi Arabia normalising relations with Israel in return for a mutual security pact with the US, and Riyadh committing to provide a generous aid package to the Palestinians in the West Bank and scale back ties with China. Israel, for its part, would promise not to seize the West Bank, cease expansion of settlements there and re-commit to a two-state solution. The

A grand bargain?

Palestinian Authority would have to reciprocate by supporting the Saudi-Israeli peace deal. The visit by a high-level US delegation to Saudi Arabia to meet Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman indicated that American officials were seeking to explore such a deal. White House officials were quoted as saying talks on July 27 between Saudi leaders and US national security adviser Jake Sullivan as well as Middle East coordinator Brett McGurk, discussed the possibility of a normalisation agreement although official statements by both sides did not mention this. Several key questions are raised by what is being termed as Biden's 'grand bargain' for the Middle East even though this is an exploratory phase at present. Why is such a deal being considered now by the White House? What are its objectives? What are the chances of the deal being sealed? Would an agreement stick even if it is forged? First, the question of timing. Washington has long wanted to normalise Saudi-Israeli relations especially after several Arab states established ties with Israel under the so-called Abraham Accords of 2020.

Riyadh, reports suggest, drove a hard bargain and made several demands — a defence pact with the US, a civilian nuclear deal, missile defence system/other high-tech weapons and substantial Israeli concessions for the Palestinians. Clearly, the Saudi-Iran rapprochement disrupted whatever initial efforts were earlier in progress, while arguably enhancing Saudi Arabia's bargaining power. But that development also gave urgency to US diplomatic efforts in order to restore its regional influence and leverage.

Timing may have much to do with the onset of the presidential election season as electoral dynamics begin to take over later this year and the focus shifts to domestic politics. The fact that Biden first publicly spoke about the deal at a fundraiser suggests he may also have an eye on his political dividends at home, especially as he has little to show by way of any foreign policy success. Facing a serious challenge in the election, a vulnerable Biden candidacy may need all the help it can get. At the same time, the move comes rather late in the day as such a complicated deal will need lengthy and difficult negotiations.

Moreover, as Biden's re-election is uncertain this casts doubt on the survivability of a deal even if it is concluded.

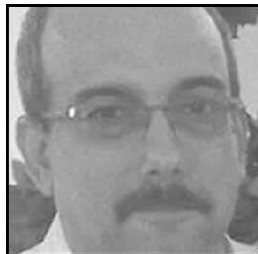
The multiple aims of a potential deal are apparent: re-establish America's dominance in the region, reverse China's diplomatic and economic gains, and reorder regional relationships to serve US and Israeli interests. Providing some relief to the Palestinians in the West Bank will also help to burnish US credentials and image among Arab and other Muslim countries even if Israel gets a better bargain out of this.

The chances for diplomatic success are slim as the challenges are formidable in complicated US-Saudi-Israeli-Palestinian negotiations among four parties. This is especially so at a time when doubts persist in the region about American reliability. Recently, new military deployments in the Middle East announced by Washington represented an effort to restore its credibility by showing its seriousness about re-engagement. Whether the various parties have enough confidence in the US and its ability to implement the deal to make necessary concessions is open to question, not least because

America is on the cusp of a presidential election. The Saudi and Israeli governments may want to wait it out to see the outcome of the US presidential race before committing to any deal. Both have had troubled relations with the Biden administration in recent years.

Some foreign policy experts and former US officials see the 'grand bargain' idea as a "non-starter" or "far-fetched" while Friedman described it as "a long shot, at best". The Saudis, Israelis as well as the Palestinians would have to make fundamental, politically tough concessions for negotiations to make headway. Whether the US still has sufficient leverage with all of them to secure these concessions is doubtful. Israel's national security adviser has said the road to such a deal was "still too long" while the government's foreign ministers voiced opposition to any concessions to the Palestinians. Then there is the US Congress, where Republicans would hardly favour a defence pact with Riyadh, and Democrats seem unlikely to agree to a deal that does not guarantee a two-state solution and adequately protect Palestinian rights. -- Courtesy Dawn

Ten years of CPEC



Dr Naazir Mahmood

With the completion of 10 years of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan has reached a major milestone. The July 30 visit of China's deputy prime minister coincided with this event. First, it must be highlighted that CPEC is part of a greater Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that started its journey in 2013. The primary objective of this project is to promote some common interests of both countries with mutual consultations. This has resulted in the initiation of some major development projects that have contributed to the development in this region.

In the past 10 years, the progress on CPEC projects has shown mixed trends, with some showing rapid leaps and oth-

ers lagging behind for various causes. Some tangible results are already there for all to see.

Since Pakistan has been marred by a consistent economic downturn, CPEC and its projects have assumed even more significance lately; people still have great hopes pinned to this corridor. CPEC has introduced a new dimension to bilateral relations which is going to have an impact on international and social issues too.

China and Pakistan have often repeated the hyperbole of their friendship by terming it higher than the Himalayas and deeper than the oceans, but before CPEC there was little solid evidence to substantiate such claims. After 10 years of CPEC, the proof of this is visible.

One of the yardsticks to assess any bilateral agreement or project is the question of how it has benefited common people. If we evaluate American aid to Pakistan, we see it was mostly meant for defence purposes instead of welfare and development projects. While there

were some projects in the health and education sectors, their success ratio is negligible as most of these projects have failed to produce sustainable outcomes.

Russia once helped Pakistan set up an enormous steel mill which was supposed to benefit Pakistan's economy and industry, but within 30 years it came to a standstill.

Given this background, there is little doubt that the people of Pakistan are enjoying CPEC's fruits though it is premature to claim that in the coming decades successive governments in Pakistan will be able to maintain the pace and production of CPEC projects across the country.

During the last PTI government, we witnessed a near paralysis on this front with extremely sluggish progress. The situation turned so bad that many took it as a failure of the entire CPEC enterprise. But things improved significantly in the past year.

In an international context, CPEC has brought Pakistan closer to China and farther from the

US. In the past decade, Pakistan has gradually moved away from the American sphere of influence, and tilted more towards China. One cause for this shift has been a declining economic performance of Pakistan, resulting from a worsening energy crisis; the US refused to extend any help in this regard.

In 2013, after Nawaz Sharif assumed office for the third time as the prime minister of Pakistan, Pakistan-China relations entered a new phase with rapid progress on CPEC. This was not to the liking of the US.

One of the most significant benefits of CPEC was a reduction in the acuteness of the energy crisis in the country. Had there been no investment in the energy sector thanks to CPEC, the situation in Pakistan would have been worse. No other country, including the US and Russia, was eager or willing to invest in such a big way in Pakistan's energy sector.

Without CPEC, there would have been an acute shortage of electricity, and Pakistani exports would have suffered greatly. Pakistan would have failed

to export a fraction of what it is exporting now.

According to estimates, the \$25 billion that CPEC has invested in Pakistan so far has contributed a lot to maintain the economy. Though most of the work was done under the Nawaz Sharif government, we must also keep in mind that in the 1970s the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto played a significant role in bringing China closer to Pakistan.

Later, the then president Asif Ali Zardari (2008-2013) promoted bilateral relations by visiting China multiple times. The progress made during the PPP government definitely helped Nawaz Sharif in this matter. Besides improving energy supply, CPEC has also tried to bring Xinjiang in China closer to Gwadar by improving overland communication through motorways, railway and ports.

From Gwadar to Kashgar, a near-2,500km corridor has been partially completed. Nearly \$50 billion is required for the complete operationalization of this corridor including the extension and modernization

of the railway tracks. Under CPEC, work on the Gwadar Port has been completed, but the port will remain under Chinese control for the next 40 years.

Work on the mainline railway MLI from Karachi to Peshawar should have been initiated by now, but mainly due to the incompetence of the PTI government the project is still under observation and study.

The motorway from Karachi to Lahore is nearly complete, but work quality in Sindh has been below the mark with serious charges of corruption. The motorways in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and Punjab display a much better quality of work than in Sindh. A journey from Karachi to Sukkur may prove instructive in this assessment.

Similarly, the railway track from Havelian to Khunjrabad has been approved but work in that direction is extremely slow. One of the most successful CPEC projects is perhaps the Hazara Motorway that has revolutionized travel in this region. -- Courtesy TheNews

Worsening trend



Huma Yusuf

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

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

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

Pakistan's response is often multifaceted, balancing its position as the second-largest Muslim major-

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

There is, however, one element missing from this approach — a revision of Pakistan's counterterrorism strategy. This is important because there are inevitable links between global Islamophobia and domestic militancy. Islamophobic incidents, and the emotion and outrage they provoke create a fertile recruitment ground for militant groups, and validate violent extremist responses, which are framed as proportionate in the face of growing onslaughts against Muslims.

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

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

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

Pakistan's approach to the militant threat continues to be largely securitised, with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari recently threatening military action in Afghanistan if the Afghan Taliban failed to clamp down on cross-border terrorism.

More holistic counterterrorism approaches that include the creation of educational and employment opportunities, inclusive local government and compelling counter-narratives — including those that acknowledge the hurt caused by global Islamophobia to stem radicalised and violent responses — remain in draft form. Incidentally, a broader counterterrorism approach focused on inclusion and prosperity would also stem the tide of asylum seekers on Western shores where immigration is a highly politicised and toxic issue. This would be the start of a virtuous cycle that would benefit everyone.

Acknowledging the interconnectedness of global and regional trends will help develop more holistic approaches that tackle both global Islamophobia and domestic militancy. And there is cause for hope: the US this year reported the first decline in anti-Muslim incidents since it started tracking the data in 1995, likely due to the Biden administration's more inclusive messaging. There's still a long way to go but a concerted effort has to be the first step. -- Courtesy Dawn

Rehashing GDPR



Samar Masood

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

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

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

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

tween data subjects and data controllers unnecessarily expensive.

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

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

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

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

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

Many such practices have been seen as tricks to manipulate the way consent is obtained, and while this consent may satisfy the provisions of the law, it creates a divergence between actual preferences and the manipulated preferences of users, and initiate a cycle where the more data the controllers collect, the more exploitative they become.

The ethical implications of data exploitation aside, these implications of data protection should also be considered before a proposal, which does not address the concerns of data collection, storage, processing, etc. by companies and imposes a huge cost for needless compliances, becomes an act of parliament. -- Courtesy Dawn

CM Sindh inaugurates Medical and Technical College in Thatta

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

The chief Minister Sindh, Syed Murad Ali Shah addressing the event said that today marks a momentous occasion as we gather here to inaugurate the newest gem in our Province, the International Medical and Technical College of Liaquat

University Medical of Medical & Health Sciences Jamshoro at District Thatta.

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

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

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

He mentioned that Liaquat University, through its relentless efforts and dedicated health services, research and medical education earned the unique honour of the first public sector

medical university of the country. Today the name of Liaquat University equals quality in medical education, health services, and research and community services.

The establishment of this Campus represents a significant milestone in our efforts to strengthen our healthcare infrastructure. With the ever-increasing population and the evolving challenges in the medical field, having a dedicated institution to train the next generation of medical professionals is of utmost importance.



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



THATTA: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah addresses during the inauguration ceremony of International Medical and Technical College LUMHS held in Thatta.

Iranian Minister for increase in tourists' between Iran & Pak

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

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

Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi was represented by Minister Specialized Healthcare and Social Welfare Prof Dr Akram Javed in the ceremony. Punjab Tourism Secretary Asif Bilal Lodhi, Iran Tourism Department Deputy Director General

Mohammadi Qasmi, Iranian Consul General Lahore Mehran Mohd'far, Tourism Department officials, tour operators and others also participated.

Iranian Minister for Tourism Syed Ezzatollah Zarghami said that the purpose of organizing the Pakistan-Iran Tourism Forum is to increase facilities for tourists. He said that last year 93 lac 11 thousand foreign tourists visited Iran. "During the year 2022 around two lac Pakistani visited Iran while 65,000 Iranians visited Pakistan for tourism purposes", he told. He further said that he was very happy to visit Badshahi Masjid, Allama Iqbal Mazar, Lahore Fort and other historical places in Lahore. Ezzatollah Zarghami said that the two countries are bound by one faith and a common culture. "Therefore, he observed, there is no obstacle for people from both sides to come closer".

IGP chairs meeting to discuss e-tagging of habitual offenders

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

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

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

Memon said that among the features of ankle, tagging were receiving calls and SMS, going to emergency mode

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

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

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

He immediately formed two committees in this regard.

Senate approves annual budget of Haripur, Swat universities

PESHAWAR (APP): The caretaker minister for Law and Higher Education Justice @ Irshad Qaiser on Monday presided over two separate senate meetings to review and approve annual budgets for the University of Haripur and the University of Veterinary and Animal Sciences Swat.

In both meetings, the members of the Senate of the respective universities attended.

The senate meeting unanimously approved the annual budget 2023-24 for the University of Haripur. Provincial Minister of Higher Education Justice @ Irshad Qaiser appreciated the surplus budget and performance of the University of Haripur.

He emphasised that the university should take more steps to increase its income so that it becomes financially stable.

The Senate meeting was told that steps are being taken to establish more departments at the university in the future.

Apart from this, the Senate meeting of the Veterinary and Animal Sciences University, Swat, was held, in which the members of the Senate participated.

Funeral prayers offered for 13 killed in train accident

TANDOADAM (APP): The funeral prayers of 13 people who died in a deadly train accident near Nawabshah were offered here on Monday and later buried in their native graveyards. According to a report, 13 people including five women of Tando Adam were also killed in a fatal train incident that occurred on Sunday. Funeral prayers were attended by the Chairman Municipal Committee Ghulam Murtaza Junejo, Vice Chairman Malak Zulqar Ali, Lala Ayoub, Abdul Rehman Ansari, office bearers of Anjuman-e-Taajir Tan Adam and large number of different political, social leaders and relatives.

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

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

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

He said that China has always supported Pakistan in difficult times. Governor Punjab said that when Pakistan.



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

May 9 vandalism proven to be deliberate conspiracy: Sharjeel

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

If these events were indeed a spontaneous reaction, why did similar incidents not occur after the re-arrest of PTI chief?

Provincial Minister Sharjeel Inam Memon stated in a statement that the nation did not exhibit any sympathy towards the punishment and

disqualification of PTI Chairman.

He said that PTI's defilement of martyrs' memorials, assault on Jinnah House, acts of arson, and attacks on institutions signify a state of rebellion within the country. The desecration of martyrs' memorials was a deeply distressing incident for the entire nation.

Sharjeel Inam Memon stated that following his removal from power through a no-confidence motion, PTI chief persistently disregarded the constitution and legal norms.



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

Abbasi inaugurates Rs 292 mln project to revamp KKH

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

Commanding the commitment to progress, Federal Minister Murtaza Javed Abbasi expressed heartfelt appreciation towards Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and the Federal Minister for Communications for their substantial contributions. Shedding light on the financial allocations,

Abbasi revealed that Rs 55.4 million has been dedicated to the maintenance and reconstruction of (KKH), spanning from Haripur to Abbottabad Interchange. An additional allocation of Rs 29.2 million has been earmarked for the enhancement of infrastructure within the area of Abbottabad city, adding he said.

Abbasi emphasized that the upgradation of KKH is not only a project but a promise to facilitate seamless transportation and expedient travel experiences. Recognizing the imperative to address the challenges of deteriorating infrastructure, the minister underscored the immediate need for action.

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

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

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

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

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

Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the United Nations Organisation.

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

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

Meeting held to eradicate ghost schools in KP

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

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

In the meeting, decisive steps were taken to eradicate ghost private schools, illegal admission and enrollment, unregistered schools and illegal publication.

CM meets Governor Bukhara during Uzbekistan visit

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

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

Uzbekistan were bound by historical, religious, and cultural ties; he added and mentioned that Uzbekistan had strengthened its economy through revolutionary reforms in the agricultural sector. Pakistan, especially Punjab, would benefit from Uzbekistan's agricultural initiatives, he expressed.

He emphasized utilizing Uzbekistan's experiences in developing improved seeds for cotton and wheat cultivation. The joint committee of Punjab province and Uzbekistan would take immediate steps for agricultural cooperation, he said and noted that the road connectivity between Pakistan and Uzbekistan would boost tourism. "We are determined to revitalize our agricultural economy," he added.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali addressing the 4th BS Convocation of Peshawar University.

Helmet drive results in 475,000 challans during 33 days

LAHORE (APP): The Traffic Police in the provincial metropolis issued challan tickets of Rs 80 million to motorcyclists for travelling without helmet and other traffic violations during the last 33 days, a source within the Traffic Police department told APP on Monday.

Likewise, 200 police personnel have also been challaned for not wearing helmets. It may be mentioned here that Lahore traffic police has set up 20 check points in various areas of the provincial capital.

It is worth mentioning here that the helmets checking drive is taking place across the province. The fines will be collected from 475,000 motorcyclists.

Meanwhile, the department urged traffic wardens and duty officers to exhibit patience when dealing with motorcyclists not complying with the helmet rule.

The decision to enforce the helmet rule comes in the wake of an alarming rise in accidents in the province.

It is worth mentioning here that during the Eid-ul-Azha holidays, more than 6,000 traffic accidents took place across Punjab in which 45 people died.

Dr Jamal inaugurates case response anti polio campaign

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

He said this while inaugurating a case response anti-polio campaign at Rural Health Center Khayaban e Sirsyed, by administering

drops to a child under five years of age.

The minister said the campaign will continue till August 13 to cover over 669,412 children in five tehsils of Rawalpindi including Rawalpindi Cantonment, city, Taxila, Gujjar Khan and Potohar town.

Dr Jamal informed that 2835 teams, including 674 area in-charges, 269 fixed points and 189 Union council medical officers were participating in the drive while children were also immunized at 147 transit points of the district.

Embezzlement of fee Investigation started against brother of former DG ISI

LAHORE (Online): Anti Corruption has started investigation into embezzlement in the fees regarding mutation of land against Naib Tehsildar Najaf Hamid Khan brother of former DG ISI Faiz Hameed. According to anti corruption sources evidence of irregularities have surfaced up in the fee of more than 60 mutation of land cases worth million of rupees in five villages of Chakwal during induction of Najaf Hamid.

Audit has been started in respect of fees of all the cases of transfer of land during the stay of Najaf Hamid as Naib Tehsildar in 9 villages of Chakwal. According to preliminary scrutiny by anti corruption challans of fees in respect of 60 cases of mutation of land were not found in the record. Irregularities have been found in the fees of mutation of land cases in patwar khanas of 5 villages.



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

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

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

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

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

operational efficiency within the government organisations.

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

He said that initially after one month test run it

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

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

Syed Amin Ul Haque said this application

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

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



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



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

SECP strengthens measures to prevent predatory lending in Digital Nano Lending

ISLAMABAD (APP): In order to curb predatory practices and ensure the financial sustainability of the borrowers in the digital nano-lending sector, the SECP has imposed exposure limits on digital lenders and borrowers through its Circular 10 of 2023.

A maximum limit of Rs 25000 has been imposed for individual borrowers from a single loan app, and the aggregate amount of loans from multiple Apps has been restricted to not exceed Rs 75,000.

Further, the loan period/tenor for a nano-

loan through personal loan apps has been restricted to not more than 90 days. The exposure limits on borrowers shall promote responsible lending behaviours and prevent borrowers from being trapped in debt cycles due to multiple loans, said a press release issued here.

In a bid to ensure cyber security and protect sensitive data of borrowers, a condition has also been imposed whereby personal loan apps must obtain a certificate from a PIA-approved Category I Cyber Security Audit Firm (CSAF).

Moreover, prior to the sign-up process, apps will be obligated to display a pop-up alert in accordance with directives from SECP to inform app users about the terms, conditions, and potential ramifications of borrowing. An in-app calculator for accurate loan repayment computations and associated charges is also mandated.

Several NBFCs licensed by SECP have entered personal loans through digital applications, with a list available on the SECP website.

PCGA to provide assistance to TCP for cotton procurement

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

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

General Manager, the regional office of TCP Lahore, Israr Ahmed Sodhar told the participants that TCP has to buy one million bales of cotton as per the decision of the government of Pakistan. He said that they came to pay visits to various ginning factories to assess possible difficulties during procurement of cotton under the directions of chairman TCP.

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

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

MULTAN (APP): Secretary Agriculture South Punjab Saqib Ali Ateel said on Monday that farmers who were following Integrated Pest Management (IPM) technology were getting significantly good production results from their cotton crop. Presiding over a meeting at agriculture secretariat Multan, he ordered officials to compile error-free data of IPM demonstration plots in Punjab so as to finalize best crop management strategy to benefit farmers.

He appreciated director IPM for his contributions adding that the crop-friendly pests being nurtured in biological laboratories and their on time supply to cotton fields helped a lot in controlling enemy pests.

He said, the pesticides with proven results should be applied but only when incidence of enemy pests reach economic threshold level (ETL) and this spray should be followed by biopesticides spray after 3-4 days.

Dar chairs CCoIGCT meeting

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar chaired the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Inter-Governmental Commercial Transactions (CCoIGCT), today.

Federal Minister for Maritime Affairs Syed Faisal Ali Subzwari, Federal Minister for Commerce Syed Naveed Qamar, Federal Minister for Power Khurram Dastgir Khan, Minister of State for Petroleum Mr. Musadik Masood Malik, SAPM on Finance Mr. Tariq Bajwa, SAPM on Revenue Mr. Tariq Mehmood Pahsa, Secretary Maritime Affairs, Secretary Law & Justice, and other senior officers attended the meeting.

The CCoIGCT considered and reviewed the progress of the negotiation committee which held its negotiations on 4 and 5th August, 2023, on the commercial agreement between KPT and AD Ports UAE for the development of Bulk and General Cargo Terminal at East Wharf, Karachi Port and directed the negotiation committee to re-engage with AD Ports UAE to improve the terms offered by AD Ports UAE.

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

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

He said this while chairing a meeting to set sugarcane prices in Sindh for upcoming season.

The Secretary Agriculture Ijaz Ahmed Mahesar, MPA Shahina Sher Ali, Cane Commissioner, PASMA representatives, Growers

Representatives and other officials were present in the meeting.

The farmer's leaders suggested the Sindh government to set the price of sugarcane at Rs 450 per maund, while the sugar mill owners suggested setting the price at Rs 425 and equal to that of Punjab.

Advisor to CM for Agriculture Manzoor Hussain Wasan said that the official price of sugarcane in Sindh will be fixed from 425 rupees to 450 rupees per maund. The price of sugarcane will be fixed within a couple of days.

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

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

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

The delegation observed the process of garments preparation and inspected printing, dyeing, pressing and other sections at the Agro Cluster.

Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi inspected the high yielding cotton plants. He said that Punjab and Uzbekistan had immense opportunities for agricultural technology

exchange and investment, and this visit was of great importance for the agro-economy of Pakistan. He said that this visit had paved the way for stronger agricultural relations between the two countries. "We will focus fully on the practical implementation of the measures and recommendations discussed during the visit" he stated.

The agricultural development teams would maintain best coordination among themselves, he added.

The CM hoped that the visit would prove to be the forerunner of the agricultural revolution in Punjab. The delegation was briefed on the stages of production of value added products from cotton.

South Africa's HC for strengthening bilateral trade relations

LAHORE (APP): In a bid to foster stronger economic ties between Pakistan and South Africa, High Commissioner Mthuzuzeli Madikiza made his third visit to the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on Monday. During his address to the business community, Madikiza underscored the need for collaborative efforts to address challenges faced by the business community and enhance trade cooperation.

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

and Executive Committee members were also present.

Madikiza highlighted the importance of understanding the unique opportunities and complexities that Africa presents for trade and investment.

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

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

He said participation in trade fairs, exhibitions and exchange of trade delegations play a fundamental role in boosting two-way trade.

Gold rates decrease by Rs 1,100

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold decreased by Rs 1,100 and was sold at Rs 221,700 on Monday compared to its sale at Rs 222,800 on the previous day.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat gold also decreased by Rs. 943 to Rs. 190, 072 from Rs. 191,016 whereas the prices of 10 gram 22 Karat gold declined to Rs. 174,233 from Rs174,076, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained constant at Rs 2750 and Rs2357.68 respectively.



ISLAMABAD: The Resident Representative UNDP, Mr. Samuel Rizk calls on the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq.

SGL to launch the first IPO of FY2023-24 in PSX today

KARACHI (APP): A digital technology and experiences company Symmetry Group Limited (SGL) to launch an initial public offering (IPO) in Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Tuesday, August 08, 2023.

The book building by SGL would be the first IPO of the fiscal year 2023-24 on the main board and the first major listing by any digital technology company in the country.

Chief Executive Officer SGL Saroosh Ahmed, informed APP that the book-building process will continue to August 8, 2023, for institutional and high-net-worth individuals while book-building would be done for retail investors on August 17 and 18.

He hoped that the book-building process will attract investors from a

variety of backgrounds while it is also expected to attract foreign direct investment in Pakistan.

SGL intends to raise capital to develop and launch various digital intellectual properties (IPs) using in-house expertise and the funds generated would be strategically allocated towards the development of AI and data-powered marketing technology, tools, and platforms, Saroosh Ahmed informed adding that these IPs will provide SaaS platforms for consumer insights, visualisation of Key Performance Indicators, and other critical information to aid businesses in the decision-making process.

He said "As the first digital technology and experiences company.



QUETTA: Provincial Finance Secretary Zahid Saleem presides over the meeting regarding FBR taxes.

1st ASEAN-Pakistan Business Opportunity Conference ends

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

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

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

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

PSX loses 199 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Monday, losing 199.47 points, a negative change of 0.41 percent, closing at 48,386.25 3 points against 48,585.72 points the previous trading day.

A total of 381,855,144 shares were traded during the day as compared to 331,132,473 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs14.528 billion against Rs 12.500 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 354 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 104 of them recorded gains and 225 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 25 companies remained unchanged.

The three top-trading companies were Energyco Pk with 74,504,972 shares at Rs 3.80 per share; Pak Refinery with 35,710,774 shares at Rs.18.01 per share and Oil and Gas Dev with 26,010,351 shares at Rs.105.57 per share.

Nestle Pakistan XD witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 91.67 per share price, closing at Rs 7,070.00, whereas the runner-up.



KARACHI: Members of Pakistan International Container Terminal Limited (PICT) Democratic Employees Union are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, held at Karachi press club

MEPCO completes new 132 KV grid station Lodhran II

MULTAN (APP): Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO) has completed construction and installation of new 132KV grid station Lodhran II grid station at a cost of Rs 445 million. CEO MEPCO Engineer Mahar Allah Yar Bharwana paid a visit to newly built grid station and reviewed construction and civil work. Additional Chief Engineer Grid System Construction (GSC) MEPCO Engineer Syed

Jawad Mansoor gave briefing to CEO and said that teams from various sectors have completed Lodhran II project.

Second 132 KV grid station has been set up in Lodhran which a power transformer of 40MVA has been installed initially at a cost of Rs 375 million while one more power transformer of 20/26 MVA will also be installed. A 7 km long double circuit rail conductor has been laid at a cost of Rs 110 million.



LARKANA: A farmer carrying the bunch of dates on the way to spreading for drying purpose near his farm field.

IPPCAAS, UAF ink agreement to establish Joint Laboratory for Crop Pest Management

FAISALABAD (APP): Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (IPPCAAS) and Department of Entomology, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad (UAF) inked an agreement in Beijing to establish the Pakistan-China Joint Laboratory for Crop Pest Management. The ceremony was held at the IPPCAAS. The letter of intent was duly signed by IPPCAAS Director General

Lu Yanhui and UAF Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan. According to the agreement they would set up the joint laboratory for the prevention and control of crop pests in Pakistan and China. They will carry out experiments, demonstrations and joint research on integrated disease control techniques for crop diseases and pests of common concern, as well as training of technical personnel and personnel exchanges.

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

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia's Foreign Ministry on Monday chided efforts by international officials meeting in Saudi Arabia to find a peaceful settlement for the war in Ukraine, saying the talks don't have "the slightest added value" because Moscow — unlike Kyiv — wasn't invited. Senior officials from around 40 countries gathered Sunday in Jeddah for a two-day meeting that aims to agree on key principles about how to end the conflict that has raged for more than 17 months.

But without Russia's participation and without taking into account Moscow's interests, the meeting was pointless, a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said. It repeated previous assurances that

Russia is open to a diplomatic solution on its terms that ends the war and is ready to respond to serious proposals.

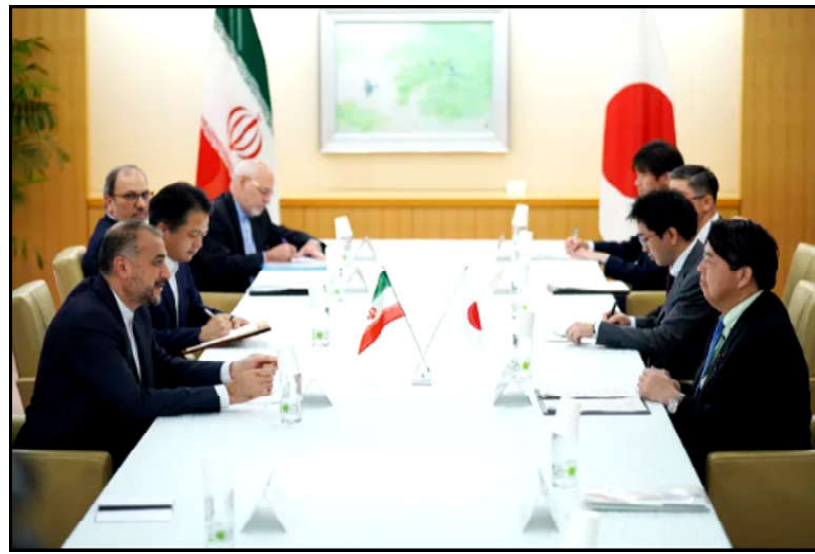
But Mykhailo Podolyak, an adviser to Zelenskyy, ruled out Moscow's previous demands that would give Russia time to dig deeper in the parts of Ukraine it has occupied. He said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that Russian forces must fully withdraw from the occupied areas and there would be no Kyiv compromise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

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

last month.

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

Zelenskyy has been a prime target for the Kremlin since Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, when he refused to leave Kyiv as Moscow's forces approached. He has been one of Ukraine's unexpected trump cards in the war, playing a key role in rallying public morale, including a nightly video address, and becoming a recognizable face across the world as he presses allies and others to help Ukraine.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

At least 11 migrants died in a shipwreck off the coast of Tunisia's second city of Sfax, said local

court spokesman Faouzi Masmoudi, revising an earlier toll of four fatalities.

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

Survivors of the sinking, near Tunisia's Kerkennah Islands in the Mediterranean Sea, said the makeshift boat had departed over the weekend from a beach north of the coastal city of Sfax.

Masmoudi told AFP coastguard units were searching for more survivors.

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

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: A shooting on a street in the nation's capital left three people dead and two others hospitalized Saturday night, police said.

Officers responded to the sounds of gunshots around 8 p.m. in the 1600 block of Good Hope Road Southeast and found five victims who had been shot. Two men and a woman were pronounced dead at the scene and two men were transported to area hospitals, Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department Acting Chief Pamela Smith.



Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signs legislation in Royal Oak, Mich. Fueled by election gains, Democrats in Minnesota and Michigan this year enacted far-reaching policy changes that party leaders aspire to replicate on the national stage and in other states.

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

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

Jalal Maleki, a spokesperson for Tehran's fire department, told local media that the overall "toll from the collapse" has reached five while, according to ISNA, rescue operations were underway to find others who may be trapped under the rubble.

According to AFP, authorities had begun the

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

ISNA quoted a police statement saying the buildings which collapsed did not comply "with construction safety measures".

A Tehran city official said on Saturday that authorities had demolished more than 46,000 unauthorised buildings over the past two years, according to Hamshahri newspaper.

In May 2022, a building collapse in Iran's southwest killed 43 people, in one of the country's deadliest such incidents.

Polish Border Guard asks for 1,000 more soldiers on Belarus frontier

Monitoring Desk
WARSAW: Poland's Border Guard has asked the defence ministry to send another 1,000 troops to the border with Belarus, the deputy interior minister said on Monday, amid an increase in attempts to illegally cross the frontier.

The head of the Border Guard, Tomasz Praga, said this year 19,000 people had tried to cross the Polish-Belarusian border illegally, up from 16,000 last year.

"The general (Praga) asked to move another 1,000 soldiers to the Polish-Belarusian border," Deputy Interior Minister Maciej Wasik said.

Poland has built a fence on the border with Belarus, equipped with electronic protection.

23 injured as 5.4-magnitude quake hits China

Monitoring Desk
PINGYUAN: At least 23 people were injured and dozens of buildings collapsed, state media reported, after a shallow 5.4-magnitude earthquake struck eastern China in the early hours of Sunday.

The US Geological Survey said the quake struck at 2:33am, 26 kilometres south of the city of Dezhou in Shandong province, at a depth of 10 kilometres.

It was the strongest to hit the province in more than a decade, state-run tabloid the Global Times said.

The quake was felt as far away as Beijing and Tianjin, as well as in Shanghai, about 800 kilometres from the epicentre.

Videos on social media showed shaking light fixtures, trembling ground and people evacuating their buildings, with one clip showing people walking past bricks scattered on the ground.



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

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

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

Most of the scouts, who come from 158 countries, will be accommodated at venues in the capital city, Seoul, and the nearby metropolitan area, he said. Officials were trying to secure spaces at government training centers and education facilities as well as hotels. Kim said it would take six hours or more to evacuate the scouts from the campsite, which organizers said will no longer be used for any event after they leave.

Officials at Camp Humphreys, a major U.S. military base 70 kilometers (45 miles) south of Seoul, did not immediately confirm reports that thousands of scouts from Sweden.

UK moves some asylum seekers to a barge on southern coast

Monitoring Desk
PORTLAND: Britain began moving some migrants onto a large residential barge on its southern coast on Monday, as part of plans to save money and remove what the government called the "pull" of hotels for those arriving in small boats.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has made cracking down on illegal migration a major priority ahead of a national election expected next year, pitching his Conservatives as being tougher on the issue than the opposition

Labour Party, which enjoys a strong lead in opinion polls.

Seeking to deter people from arriving in Britain, it is moving migrants on to disused military sites and barges like the grey, three-story Bibby Stockholm in Portland which can house around 500 people in more than 200 bedrooms.

It is also trying to send asylum seekers to Rwanda, although that plan has been bogged down in the courts and still hinges on a ruling by the Supreme Court on its legality.

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

Monitoring Desk
CABAZON: Two firefighting helicopters collided while responding to a blaze in Southern California, sending one to the ground in a crash that killed all three people on board.

"Unfortunately, the second helicopter crashed and tragically all three members perished, which included one Cal Fire Division chief, one Cal Fire captain and one contract client pilot."

Heatwave caused higher than normal death rate in southern Italy

Monitoring Desk
ROME: The central and southern regions of Italy recorded 7% more deaths than normal in July after a baking heatwave, health ministry data showed, while firefighters on Monday battled fires on Sardinia and hailstones and floods battered the northeast.

Italy has been at the forefront of extreme weather events since a heat wave hit southern Europe last month, with scorching temperatures leading to increased risk of fires and deaths.

China tells Philippines to remove grounded warship in South China Sea

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

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

China said it had earlier told Manila not to send ships to the Second Tho-

mas Shoal and not to send "construction materials used for large-scale repair and reinforcement" to the warship after it learned of this recent supply plan, the Chinese coast guard said in a statement on Monday.

China also urged the Philippines to restore the Second Thomas Shoal and said it had allowed transport of daily necessities including food to the grounded ship, according to the Chinese statement, adding that it had used the water cannon to avoid collision from a direct interception. The Philippines in 1999 intentionally grounded the warship to stake its claim to the Second Thomas Reef, a submerged reef that is part of the Spratly islands in the South China Sea.

Iraq asks US, UK to extradite ex-officials in \$2.5 billion corruption scandal

Monitoring Desk
BAGHDAD: Iraq on Sunday called on the United States and Britain to extradite former officials accused of facilitating the theft of \$2.5 billion in public funds in one of the country's biggest-ever corruption cases.

Iraq's judiciary issued arrest warrants at the beginning of March for four men, including a former finance minister and staff members of former prime minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, who Baghdad says all live outside the country.

Haider Hanoun, the head of the Iraqi Commission for Integrity, on Sunday called on "competent authorities in the United States and the United Kingdom to cooperate in executing the arrest warrants issued against them", without specifying where the suspects are located.

He said in a statement that Interpol had issued Red

Notices against Kadhimi's cabinet director Raed Jouhi and personal secretary Ahmed Najati, both of whom hold American citizenship.

Another Red Notice has been issued for former finance minister Ali Allawi, "who holds British citizenship," Hanoun added.

An Interpol Red Notice is not an international arrest warrant but asks authorities worldwide to provisionally detain people pending possible extradition or other legal actions.

The fourth suspect, the former premier's media adviser Mushrik Abbas, "currently resides in the United Arab Emirates," according to Hanoun, who said he did not know if Abbas held another nationality.

"We hope that they (London and Washington) will cooperate and extradite the suspects," said the official.

Democrats urge US House Republicans not to cut food aid to the poor

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Twenty-five Democratic lawmakers on Monday urged Republican leaders of the US House of Representatives to stop calling for further cuts to the largest US food aid programme for low-income Americans as a key committee considers a \$728 billion farm and nutrition spending bill.

The letter written to House Speaker Kevin McCarthy reflects rising partisan tensions in Congress over the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme (SNAP). The Democrats, all members of the House Agriculture Committee, told McCarthy that continuing Republican talk of SNAP cuts could jeopardize progress on this year's farm bill.

"Playing partisan SNAP politics does nothing to address the needs of our farm and ranch families who depend on the other components of the farm bill," Representative David Scott, the panel's senior

Democrat, and the other lawmakers wrote.

They asked McCarthy to let the panel "work its will, and then respect the product that we hope comes out of our process later this fall."

Republicans secured expanded work requirements for SNAP recipients as part of the deal negotiated by McCarthy and Democratic President Joe Biden this spring to raise the US debt ceiling. Democrats now are seeking to protect the programme from further cuts in the farm bill, which comes up every five years and funds farm commodity and conservation programmes as well as SNAP and other food aid. The letter was prompted by recent comments from McCarthy and Representative Garret Graves, one of his top negotiators, indicating Republicans may seek further SNAP cuts in the farm bill or the agriculture appropriations process, according to a Democratic committee staffer.

Conservative groups sue to block Biden plan canceling \$39 billion in student loans

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Two conservative groups are asking a federal court to block the Biden administration's plan to cancel \$39 billion in student loans for more than 800,000 borrowers.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in Michigan, the groups argue that the administration overstepped its power when it announced the forgiveness in July, just weeks after the Supreme Court struck down a broader cancellation plan pushed by President Joe Biden.

It asks a judge to rule the cancellation illegal and stop the Education Department from carrying it out while the case is decided. The suit was filed by the New Civil Liberties Alliance on behalf of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Cato Institute.

The Education Department called the suit "a desperate attempt from right wing special interests to keep hundreds of thou-

sands of borrowers in debt."

"We are not going to back down or give an inch when it comes to defending working families," the department said in a statement. It's part of a wave of legal challenges Republicans have leveled at the Biden administration's efforts to reduce or eliminate student debt for millions of Americans. Biden has said he will pursue a different cancellation plan after the Supreme Court decision, and his administration is separately unrolling a more generous repayment plan that opponents call a "backdoor attempt" at cancellation.

The Biden administration announced July 14 that it would soon forgive loans for 804,000 borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans. The plans have long offered cancellation after borrowers make 20 or 25 years of payments, but "past administrative failures" resulted in inaccurate payments counts that set borrowers back on their progress toward forgiveness, the department said.



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

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

ISLAMABAD (APP): With heat and high humidity in South Asia, the United Nations International Fund for Children (UNICEF) urged the local authorities, frontline health workers and caregivers to help vulnerable children and families. South Asia has the highest percentage of children exposed to extreme high temperatures, compared to all other regions, according to a UNICEF analysis.

UNICEF estimates that 76 percent of children under 18 in South Asia – 460 million – are exposed to extreme high temperatures where 83 or more days in a year exceed 35°C. This means that 3 in 4 children in South Asia are already exposed to extreme high

temperature compared to only 1 in 3 children (32 percent) globally. The analysis is of 2020 data, the latest available.

In addition, the data also show that 28 per cent of children across South Asia are exposed to 4.5 or more heatwaves per year, compared to 24 per cent globally. July was the hottest month ever recorded globally, raising further concerns about a future where children, including those living in South Asia, are expected to face more frequent and severe heatwaves, largely due to climate change.

“With the world at global boiling, the data clearly show that the lives and well-being of millions of children across South

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



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

Governor Balochistan calls for producing modern skilled persons in society

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has stressed the need to produce the modern skilled persons in society to meet the future requirements of skilled human resource in the province and country.

The Governor was speaking to the Vice Chancellor of Mir Chakar Khan Rind University (MCKRU) Sibi, Professor Dr. Qadir Bakhs Baloch, who called on him here at the Governor's House on Monday.

During the course of meeting, the performance of the University as well as the matters related to methodology of the teaching, modern skills and future course of action were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor said that there is a dire need to create collaboration between the academic and market. In this regard, we have to introduce the departments of livestock management, animal husbandry, engineering & technology departments especially in Mir Chakar University Sibi.

He said that at the moment, we direly need the skilled persons in the society. He also stressed that the role of public sector universities is very important in increasing the number of skilled persons in the province.

He said that the students of Harnai and Ziarat would also have access to the University after restoration of Sibi-Harnai railway section. The Governor on the occasion appreciated untiring efforts of Professor Dr. Qadir Bakhs and his team for the cause of higher education in the area.



SANJAVI: Senior Provincial Minister Haji Noor Muhammad Dummer laying foundation stone of Quaid-e-Azam Cadet College Ziarat

Secretary Finance dismayed over absence of officers & staff at Quetta Treasury

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Secretary Finance Department, Balochistan, Zahid Saleem has expressed his annoyance over absence of District Accounts Officer and other staff at the Quetta treasury here on Monday.

The Secretary Finance was on surprise visit of the Treasury office on Monday morning.

During the visit, the Secretary Finance was angered over non-presence of the officers and staff at the Treasury.

However, he met the people came to the Treasury for resolution of their related issues.

He got himself acquainted about the problems of people approaching the Treasury.

Expressing his annoyance over absence of the concerned officers and staff, the Secretary Finance sought explanation from the absentees.

He also directed all the concerned to improve the service delivery and performance.

Somia Asim, wife of civil judge arrested in house maid torture case

ISLAMABAD (Online): District and Sessions Court Islamabad has cancelled bail of Somia Asim wife of civil judge in house maid torture case and ordered to arrest her.

Police have taken her to custody from court's premises.

The bail before arrest plea in respect of Somia Asim accused in house maid Rizwana torture case came up for hearing before duty judge, additional sessions judge Farrukh Farid Baloch.

Accused Somia Asim appeared in the court with her lawyers. The lawyers from the side of affected house maid Rizwana also appeared in the court.

Police presented the record in the court.

On the request of lawyer of the accused, interval was made till 10 a.m.

Judge Farrukh Farid Baloch remarked decision will be made after hearing arguments at 10 a.m.

Policy Dialogue on MHM Tax Reforms Speakers suggest measures to ensure gender equality

QUETTA (APP): In a momentous event aimed at advancing menstrual hygiene management and promoting gender equality, a Policy Dialogue on Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Tax Reforms was held in Quetta.

According to press release issued here on Monday, joint organized by UNICEF, Qatar Charity, and MHM Working Group (MHMWG) Balochistan.

The event brought together policymakers, experts, advocates, and stakeholders to address critical

issues related to MHM and propose transformative tax reforms that can positively impact women's health and well-being. The policy dialogue successfully highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive MHM measures, ensuring a brighter future for all women and girls in the region.

The event commenced with an insightful sharing of views by the worth speakers, followed by panel discussions and engaging workshops that fostered a collaborative atmosphere to explore innovative

solutions including advocacy and awareness campaigns.

Participants discussed challenges related to affordability, accessibility, and stigma surrounding menstrual products, while deliberating on the role of tax reforms in addressing these issues.

The policy dialogue also focused on the intersectional of MHM with education, health, and women's empowerment, recognizing its integral contribution to sustainable development.



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

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

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Prof. Ahsan Iqbal on Monday said that peace, stability and persistent policies were mandatory for a strong economy.

Addressing a ceremony here, he said, “We should not make any compromise on these three things and continue our journey towards economic restoration for the next five to ten years to come out of difficulties permanently”.

He said that the country paid a heavy price of former premier Nawaz Sharif's disqualification as it shook the confidence of our friends and investors in our system. He said that no country could succeed without foreign investment in present times. He said, “We are a nation of 240 million people whereas the foreign investment is only 1.5 billion dollars.”

The minister ques-

tioned why the foreign investment did not come to Pakistan, and said that every investor looked for peace, stability, persistent policies and the judicial system which would give protection to him. While questioning decisions like disqualification of Nawaz Sharif, he said, “We need to reform our judicial system as it is the most necessary to strengthen our economy.” To a question, he said that the nation was aware of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz's (PML-N) performance. He said that the country was facing a number of problems, when the PML-N assumed power in 2013, but it overcame the problems and put the country on development track.

However, after an experiment was made and a man was put into power, who did not have any experience of running the government, and it led to devastation of the economy, he added.

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

He said that now Pakistan had come out of the default scenario, adding that the inflation would decrease with the strengthening of the rupee. All over the world, if the inflation touched this limit then it usually took two years time to control it, he added.

It was utmost necessary that the people should decide in the next elections whether they wanted this process of development to continue or not, he said, adding that the people would make a positive decision.

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ISLAMABAD: Parliamentarians Leader of Baluchistan Awami Party Mr. Khalid Hussain Magsi called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House.

Serious concerns voiced by ECP on LG amendment delay

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) expressed serious concern about the delay in approving the amendment in Section 17 of the local government act and urged the Interior Secretary to promptly arrange for the approval of the allocation of reserved seats and the necessary amendment to the local government act.

The primary objective of the meeting chaired by Nisar Ahmed Durrani, a

distinguished member of the Commission, was to determine the date for local government elections.

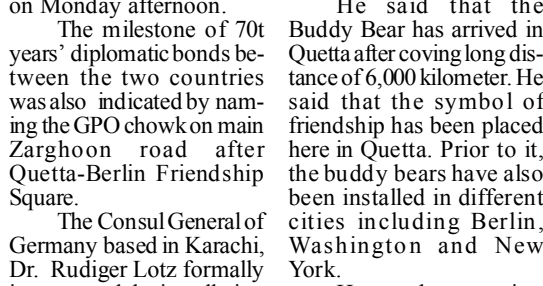
During the meeting, which included Commission members, the Election Commission's Secretary, Special Secretary, and other senior officials.

The commission emphasized the importance of receiving a written update from the Ministry of Interior regarding their progress and stance on the matter.

Buddy Bear installed in Quetta to celebrate Pakistan-Germany ties

Independent Report
QUETTA: The completion of 70 years of the diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Germany was marked by placing the Berlin Buddy Bear at the main intersection of Quetta city

Speaking on the occasion, the Consul General of Germany said that the Berlin Buddy bear has been installed to mark the celebrations of 70 years diplomatic relations between his country and Pakistan.



He said that the Buddy Bear has arrived in Quetta after covering long distance of 6,000 kilometer. He said that the symbol of friendship has been placed here in Quetta. Prior to it, the buddy bears have also been installed in different cities including Berlin, Washington and New York.

He on the occasion thanked the Administrator Quetta for installing Buddy Bear in Quetta and name the intersection after Quetta-Berlin Friendship Square.

Dr. Lotz said that installation of Buddy Bear has immense importance for the Pak-German friendship.

MQM delegation thanks PM for addressing reservations

ISLAMABAD (APP): A delegation of the Muttahida Qaumi Movement led by Convener Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui on Monday called on Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif here. The delegation included Dr Farooq Sattar, Federal Minister for IT Syed Aminul Haq and Sindh Governor Kamran Tessori.

The members of the delegation thanked the prime minister for addressing their party's reservations on the seventh digital census.

CM grieved over loss of lives of 2 levies personnel in Musakhail

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chief Minister, Mir Abdul Qudus Bizenjo has expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over martyrdom of two Levies personnel in the crackdown against anti-social elements in Rada Sham area of Musakhail district.

In a statement issued here on Monday, the Chief Minister was also grieved over the injuries caused to two other Levies personnel in the incident.

He said that the Levies force is rendering valuable services for establishment of peace in the province, and the Levies personnel are rendering sacrifice of their lives for the cause of protection of life and property of the masses. The people of the province are proud of the levies force, he commended.

Senior journalist Zahid Kalhoro passes away

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

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

As his condition worsened, he was shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU) and put on a ventilator where he breathed his last this morning.

According to family sources, Zahid Kalhoro was undergoing treatment for dengue fever and was moved to a ventilator after critical condition.

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

Kaira inaugurates Gilani's corner at National Monument Museum

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

Talking to media, the

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

He said the inauguration of the corner would provide an opportunity to highlight Geelani's struggle and achievements to appraise the general public regarding the towering stature of the great Hurriyat leader.



Advisor to the Prime Minister on Kashmir Affairs and Gilgit Baltistan Qamar Zaman Kaira addressing the inaugural ceremony of Late Syed Ali Geelani Corner in National Monument Museum Islamabad.

Chinese company lauds multiple incentives at Gwadar Port Free Zone

BEIJING (APP): The Pakistani government is very supportive of Chinese enterprises investing in Gwadar Port and has given multiple preferential policies including tax-free incentives, said Liu Hui, deputy general manager of China Linyi Trade City Co, a Chinese enterprise which has been operating in Gwadar Port Free Zone for many years.

Before 2015, the Gwadar Port Free Trade Zone was just an idea. Now, the FTZ has attracted some 20 companies in banking, insurance, logistics and food processing with a combined investment of \$420 million,

from China and Pakistan, and it has generated 1,200 jobs. Inside the FTZ, China Linyi Trade City Co, a merchandising firm, invested in warehousing facilities. “We have fully undertaken warehousing service of the Gwadar Port - Afghanistan fertilizer transit trade since September 2020. It has completed the storage services of 800,000 tons of fertilizer by March 2023”. In 2021, our warehousing service promoted the re-export trade by \$60 million, highlighting the role that Gwadar Port has played in connecting surrounding landlocked countries.

Omani Military Chief lauds PAF's exceptional professionalism

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Chief of Staff of the Sultan's Armed Forces of Oman, Vice Admiral Abdullah Bin Khamis-Al-Raisi called on Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Zaher Ahmed Baber Sidhu at Air Headquarters on Monday and lauded the exceptional professionalism of the PAF personnel.

During the meeting, key areas of mutual interest, geo-political environment and regional developments were discussed, a Pakistan Air Force (PAF) news release said.

The Chief of the Air Staff briefed the visiting dignitary as regards to the overall framework of PAF's modernisation drive through smart procurements, induction of niche technologies and revamping of training in line with contemporary trends.

The Air Chief reiterated his sound determination to further elevate the existing ties in areas of military cooperation and training, especially in the domains of cyber, electronic warfare, space and computing.

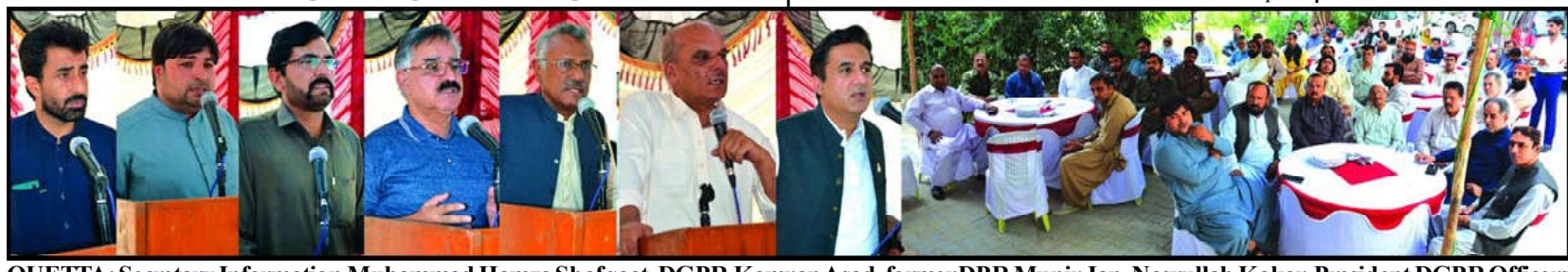
Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar unveils 37 job openings

GWADAR (INP): Pak-China Friendship Hospital Gwadar has unveiled 37 job openings.

Pak-China Friendship Hospital in Gwadar is a state-of-the-art medical facility that not only provides free and high-quality treatment for the local residents but also offers employment opportunities to the coastal community.

The hospital extends an invitation to individuals driven by excellence and guided by vision to join its team, contributing to the advancement of this noble endeavor, according to a report published by Gwadar

Pro. The hospital has unveiled 37 vacancies across various departments, encompassing roles such as senior consultants, registrars, specialists, and junior technicians. Gwadar Development Authority (GDA)'s Pak-China Friendship Hospital is a state-of-the-art health facility under China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), serving the people of Gwadar and Balochistan. Indus Hospital & Health Network (IHHN) operates tertiary care facilities at the hospital through a public-private partnership with the Government of Balochistan.



QUETTA: Secretary Information Muhammad Hamza Shafqaat, DGPR Kamran Asad, former DPR Munir Jan, Nasrullah Kakar, President DGPR Officers Association Inayatullah Rehman and President All Pakistan Technical Employees Union Shamsullah addressing a ceremony held in honour of retired officers