

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 237 Safar 01, 1445 AH Saturday August 19, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

Caretaker PM vows to implement former govt's commitments; ensure rule of law, financial discipline

Addresses first interim cabinet meeting, calls on nation to start envisioning Pakistani dream; Says there will no compromise on rule of law in country

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar vowed on Friday to comply with the commitments made by the previous government on national and international levels with different forums, besides ensuring rule of law and financial discipline during the interim period.

"We do not have perpetual mandate to serve the nation but during the given allocated time we will try to lay foundation where we have sense of continuation of national and international commitments that the previous government has made with different forums," he said while talking to the cabinet members here during the first cabinet meeting of the caretaker government.

With respect to a new initiative-Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), launched by former government, the prime minister said the caretaker government would fully support it. He said SIFC was a dream

comes true project as Pakistan was an agriculture country and rich with mineral resources.

He said in fact SIFC was not a new idea but it was an old national dream that was going to be materialized now.

"Day has arrived when with the support of all institutions including Pakistan military leadership, we support, facilitate, encourage, and realize this old national dream."

He said this initiatives was not held by any institution but it was collectively owned by around 250 million people of the country. "We all own it and we will contribute towards it."

During the meeting, he individually acknowledged the services of all the cabinet members saying "I am very proud that we have got one of the best team".



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs the first meeting of the Federal Cabinet.



KARACHI: Caretaker Chief Minister of Sindh Justice (R) Maqbool Baqir talking to media persons at Mazar-e-Quaid in Provincial Capital.

Jaranwala culprits to be punished according to law: caretaker federal minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Human Rights and Women Empowerment Khalil George said on Friday that all culprits involved in the Jaranwala incident would be punished according to the law, while Christians' residences and churches, ransacked by mob, would be rehabilitated soon.

Talking to the media during his visit to Christian Colony (Issa Nagri) Jaranwala on Friday, he said the Jaranwala tragedy was a calculated move. The anti-Pakistan elements hatched a deep-rooted conspiracy to spread anarchy and create rift in Christian-Muslim harmony. He advised the Christian community to

show patience and forge unity among their ranks so that nefarious designs of the anti-state elements could be foiled.

He said that the police had registered five cases regarding the Jaranwala incident in addition to arresting 128 accused. Such incidents had also occurred in Gojra, Shanti Nagar and Joseph Nagar and their culprits had met their fate whereas the victims were compensated.

He also promised punishment to all culprits involved in vandalising of Christian localities and churches and said that the constitution of Pakistan granted protection to all religions. Hence no one would be allowed to deprive Christians of their legal rights.

Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan posted as CS Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan, an officer of Pakistan Administrative Services (BS-22) has been posted as Chief Secretary Sindh Vice Muhammad Sohail Rajput transferred.

According to notification, Muhammad Fakhre Alam Irfan, presently posted as Federal Secretary Housing and Works Division was transferred and posted as Chief Secretary Government of Sindh with immediate effect and until further orders.

Madad Ali assumes charge as Caretaker Edu. Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Renowned writer, poet and journalist, Madad Ali Sindh Friday assumed charge as the caretaker federal minister for the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. The officials of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training welcomed the newly appointed Federal Minister.

The Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Vocational Training, Madad Ali Sindh was formally introduced to the officials by the Secretary Education Waseem Ajmal Chaudhry.

Madad Ali Sindh was given a comprehensive briefing about the important functions and responsibilities of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.

He said that he wanted to understand the problems of the education sector and solve them accordingly.

If there will be housing society of IB then who competes it: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked if there will be housing society of IB then who competes it.

The CJP gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench of SC during hearing of Housing societies forensic audit case here Friday.

He further observed "we have reviewed FIA report. As per report loss of Rs 175 billions occurred. An overall estimate was given in the report but no explanation was sought from the housing societies.

Justice Athar Minallah remarked how can FIA use its name in private business. Is it not clash of interests.

He further remarked

grave allegations of illegal occupation of land have been leveled against FIA. IB too is apparently involved in illegal possession of land. The job of these institutions is serving people and not running housing societies.

The CJP remarked if there will be housing society of IB then who I competes it. The matter of government institutions housing societies is not before us. Therefore, a suo moto notice can be taken on this matter separately.

We see it either we have to take suo moto notice or otherwise. CJP remarked it will be better some application comes before us. We are cautious in taking suo moto notice because suo moto notice is aimed at protecting public interest.

Can't interfere in ECP jurisdiction Sindh interim CM vows not to accept any 'political pressure'

It is the responsibility of ECP to give a date for polls

Independent Report

KARACHI: Newly-appointed Sindh caretaker Chief Minister Justice (ret'd) Maqbool Baqar has vowed that he would not accept any pressure while fulfilling his new constitutional duties.

During an interaction with journalists in Karachi on Friday, Justice (ret'd) Baqar said: "There is no political pressure on me nor I will accept any pressure."

Responding to questions about the expected date for the upcoming general elections in the country, the caretaker chief executive clarified that it was the responsibility of the

Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to give a date for holding the polls to the Sindh Assembly.

He added that he can't interfere in the ECP's jurisdiction in any way.

The interim CM, however, said that he would not become part of any action which is against the Constitution and the law. "Only Constitution and law have pressure."

Apparently, he made the remarks in the backdrop of reports about "long-term interim set-up".

To another query, CM Baqar said that consultation is underway to select members of his interim cabinet, adding that the incoming cabinet would be short.

"Members of the incoming cabinet will be picked in phases."

Responding to another question, he said: "The competent institutions should hold everyone accountable, including me, under the law and the Constitution."

It is pertinent to here that minutes before the deadline was set to expire, then Sindh chief minister Murad Ali Shah and Leader of the Opposition of the dissolved Sindh Assembly Rana Ansar agreed on naming Justice (ret'd) Baqar as the caretaker chief executive of the province. His name was proposed by the PPP for the interim CM's slot.

Caretaker govt to assist ECP in holding free & fair elections: Murtaza Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Friday that holding general elections was the responsibility of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) and the Federal Government would fulfill its duty to assist the watchdog in that regard.

Addressing his maiden press conference as information minister, he said the entire caretaker cabinet would try hard to fulfill responsibilities under the oath and in accordance with the law and Constitution.

The minister spoke with the media to inform them about the first meeting of the Federal Cabinet chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Murtaza Solangi said he had held a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner Raja Sikandar Sultan and apprised him about the commitment of the Federal

Cabinet regarding assistance in holding free elections in the country and implementing the ECP recommendations for necessary transfer and posting of officials in that regard. He said the cabinet decided that on the election day, the first vote would be cast by the caretaker prime minister and then by the ministers.

The minister said the country would be ultimately run by the elected representatives of the people as was envisaged in the Constitution of Pakistan and the caretaker government would look after the affairs only till the elections.

He said that the cabinet decided to reduce the government's spending in view of the prevailing economic conditions, and it was also the government's responsibility not to waste taxpayers' money.

"We cannot afford to buy petroleum products at high prices and sell them at low prices," he said.



KARACHI: Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Nawaf bin Said Al-Malki meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori

'If any police officer found involved in water theft, he will face action'; Mayor

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that he is in touch with the higher authorities of the police and if any police officer is found involved in water theft and action will be taken against him.

He expressed these views while addressing the event organized under the auspices of Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Deputy Mayor Karachi Salman Abdullah Murad, People's Party Parliamentary Leader in the City Council Najmi Alam, Mayor Karachi Spokesperson for Political Affairs Karamullah Waqasi, District Central General Secretary Dil Muhammad, Chairman of

various UCs, CEO, MD Water Board Syed Salahuddin, Chief Operating Officer Asadullah Khan and other officers were also present on the occasion.

The water board has come up with a solution that they will produce manhole covers, manhole rings and slabs. A manhole cover which weighs 10 to 12 kilograms was available for Rs 3500 in the market, the same cover will be ready in the factory for Rs 2700 and its weight will be 35 kg. He said that 150 manhole covers will be given to every UC without discrimination and this process will be started from Monday.

Religious leaders unite to condemn violence, demand justice for minorities

KARACHI (APP): Religious leaders from diverse faiths on Friday gathered to denounce exploitation, violence, and religious intolerance in all its forms.

Leading the press conference at the Karachi Press Club, Ambassador at Large for Global Peace and Human Rights, Imam Allama Muhammad Ahsan Siddiqui, Chairman of the Interfaith Commission for Peace and Harmony (ICPH) and Co-Chair of the International Religious Freedom Roundtable for Pakistan addressed the recent Jaranwala incident and called for justice and respect for religious minorities in Pakistan.

Highlighting the importance of unity and mutual respect, he stated that Islam unequivocally condemned all acts of violence and exploitation.

He emphasized that Islamic teachings required followers to honor and respect the beliefs of people from other religions, affirming that non-Muslim citizens possessed the same rights as their Muslim counterparts in an Islamic state.

Referring to the recent Jaranwala incident, Imam Siddiqui expressed deep sadness and concern over the violent actions that left churches vandalized and families homeless.

He condemned the actions of a radical mob and called for an immediate impartial inquiry to determine the facts and bring the culprits to justice.



SUKKUR: Peoples Party (PPP) Senior Leader, Khurshed Shah addresses during public gathering meeting held in Sukkur

Rangers arrests two 'wanted terrorists' of Daesh in Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Rangers claimed to have arrested two most wanted terrorists allegedly affiliated with the banned organization 'Daesh' from Karachi on Friday.

Rangers and the Special Investigation Unit (SIU) conducted a raid in Karachi's Gadap area and apprehended two most wanted terrorists affiliated with Daesh.

The apprehended terrorist - identified as Farmanullah aka Ehtesham and Dawood aka Ameer Sahab - were active member of Daesh and wanted in several terrorist activities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP), Bajaur and Karachi.

The rangers spokesman stated that the hand grenades, arms and ammunition were also recovered from the arrested accused.

The spokesman further stated that the leader

of these terrorist, Sikandar, was arrested in Karachi back in 2020, while Farmanullah managed to escape to Afghanistan, returned to Karachi a while ago and went into hiding.

Spokesman Rangers said that the accomplices of the arrested terrorist have been killed in the encounters against the security forces in Bajaur, meanwhile these terrorists were booked in several terrorism cases in PIB Colony police station.

The spokesman claimed that the accused Dawood alias Ameer Sahib belongs to Tehreek-e-Taliban Bajaur, and recently left Tehreek-e-Taliban and joined Daesh.

The spokesman further said that the accused was reorganizing the group with his partner Farmanullah alias Ehtesham.



KARACHI: Christians hold a demonstration condemning the recent attack on a Christian area by an angry mob in Jaranwala



ISLAMABAD: Federal Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Murtaza Solangi addresses press conference at PID media centre.

PPP announces to hold high level meeting on delay in general election issue

ISLAMABAD (Online): PPP has announced to hold high level meeting on the matter of delay in general election.

Sources said PPP looks unhappy over delay in general election.

PPP senior leadership has started considering to evolve strategy in this regard. In this regard PPP has announced to convene a high level meeting

PPP has started considering to support Supreme Court Bar on the matter of holding election in time.

PPP is deliberating over to make contacts with allied parties on the issue of holding election on time.

Key leaders of PPP have conveyed their reservations in connection with delay in election to their senior leadership.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Afghan dilemma

Two years have lapsed since the Afghan Taliban took Kabul, and the Western-backed government melted away, bringing to a close a lengthy and expensive nation-building experiment. However, while the Taliban may be celebrating the occasion, the Afghan people have little to cheer about.

While it is true that the relentless violence Afghanistan has been witnessing since the Soviet invasion and later the American invasion has come down considerably, the Taliban continue to enforce their ultraconservative version of religious rule upon the populace, while international isolation and a long-running drought have inflicted crushing poverty on the Afghan people. Women in particular have seen their limited freedoms snatched by the hard-line rulers of Kabul, especially the right to get an education and participate in society. Unlike during the previous period of Taliban governance, when the Saudis, Emiratis and Pakistan recognised the militia as the legitimate Afghan rulers, today the Taliban find no country willing to extend recognition to them. Their dismal human rights record, and failure to act against all terrorist groups on their soil, are the key stumbling blocks standing in the way of international recognition.

The sooner the Taliban address these concerns, the better; yet the hard-line leadership in Kandahar appears to have a dominating veto on such matters over politicians and pragmatists in Kabul. The clerics in Kandahar seem intent on dragging Afghanistan back to the Middle Ages. Sadly, their intransigence is having a devastating effect on the Afghan people.

The Red Cross says 28.8m Afghans are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, while the UN has observed that 15.3m people in the country face acute food insecurity. The Taliban, therefore, need to reconsider their obstinate stance so that help can easily reach their devastated countrymen. If Kabul's rulers were to improve the human rights situation — especially for women — and assure the comity of nations that their soil will not be used to host terrorists, global recognition could be forthcoming. However, as long as both these expectations remain unmet, few in the world will be willing to advocate for engaging the Taliban.

Pakistan, for example, has long called upon the world community to talk to the Taliban, yet its concerns about the TTP remain unaddressed. But regardless of political developments, the world cannot leave millions of Afghans to face starvation and death.

Support must continue to the Afghan people to help them survive tough times. In this regard, billions of dollars belonging to the Afghan central bank — being blocked by the US — must be released so that food, medicine and other essential needs of the Afghan population can be met. Afghanistan's people deserve a chance at rebuilding their country, not more isolation imposed on them due to the short-sighted policies of their rulers.

Injustice kills hope



Faisal Bari

We have seen some tough times in Pakistan. Numerous martial laws, two wars, the trauma of the war in East Pakistan, severe tensions with India, repeated post-nuclear tests sanctions, the terror campaigns of various groups, and economic crises that seem to keep getting worse provide a disturbing yet incomplete list.

But, and this might just be the effect of being in the moment, I do not think that I have ever seen and felt people to be as despondent as they are right now. Economic conditions are tough but we have seen tougher times before. Dollars are expensive and hard to get but the State Bank has not taken over dollar accounts as it did in the past. We still do not have rationing of food and clothing as we had up to the 1970s. Imports have been restricted but not as much as in the past. So, where is the despondency coming from?

People seem to have lost hope in the future of the country and it is largely the last couple of years that have been responsible for this loss of hope. Many people, especially in the middle class and amongst the younger people, had a lot of hopes pinned on Imran Khan and his anticipated performance. Some got disillusioned by the poor performance of the government and the rest lost hope when his government lost the establishment's support and was eventually done away with. The PDM's poor performance has also been a factor but a more important one seems to have been the coalition's active support for the 'hybrid' sys-

tem. The way that PDM supported anti-people and anti-freedom legislation, through parliament, will be talked about for some time to come.

The way the establishment has taken back power has made many lose hope about the future of the country. Contracting space for freedom of speech, lack of tolerance, religious repression, suppression of freedom of press, abduction of journalists, making people disappear, abducting people for a few hours to a few days as a way of putting pressure on them, disrupting jobs and businesses of opposition members, and the use of the law to register many cases against a person so that he/she gets entangled in just dealing with courts and prison are but some examples.

Nothing erodes hope like injustice. And what has happened and is happening since the excesses of May 9 has been nothing short of injustice. Where a few hundred or a few thousand people might have been involved in the actual vandalism on May 9, arrests were made at a much broader and deeper level. If people happened to be on the streets that day, or were protesting the arrest of Imran Khan peacefully, they were still picked up.

Party workers have been picked up irrespective of whether or not they were involved in the vandalism. Some who were supporting the party on social media have also been picked up or harassed. Others, who just happened to be in the vicinity of the installations that were vandalised, have become victims of the 'net' that the state has cast. In cases where the prime suspect could not be apprehended, family members have been arrested or harassed.

The way the PTI has been put under pressure also shows this high-handedness and injustice. People were forced to leave the party.

They were arrested and kept in jail till they held a press conference to denounce their party affiliation. They were then let out. Family members were arrested, threatened or harassed to make people leave. Nothing erodes hope like injustice!

A friend's cook was picked up as his number was identified as a result of geo-fencing. But the gentleman lives in the area, so how could his number not have come up? He stayed in jail for 45 days or so before being bailed out. The family had to spend a fair bit in engaging a lawyer and paying off the police station and jail staff to ensure access to some basic comforts for the gentleman and he still has to fight a case. The gentleman was a PML-N voter/supporter. Now he and his family are livid and want nothing to do with Pakistani politics.

Another gentleman, a doctor, was picked up because he was a relative of someone the police wanted to put pressure on. He had his connections so he stayed in the thana for only two days. But he is now planning to move abroad along with his family. He has absolutely no trust left in any local institution.

We have recently heard about the 10-year-old boy who was kept in the thana for 22 hours or so. His 'crime' was that he was walking around with a PTI flag. How many videos have we seen of police harassing or beating PTI flag carriers on the streets?

We have also heard about the 13-14-year-old boy who was arrested for his alleged involvement in the May 9 incident. He was allegedly framed. But this child stayed in jail for more than a month. His sisters have also been, again allegedly, harassed by the police. His father died after their home was raided by the police to rearrest the child after he had just returned on bail. -- Courtesy Dawn

August in history



Dr Ramesh Kumar Vankwani

Being a student of history, whenever I get some free time in my daily socio-political activities, I try to study various important events that have played a key role in changing the course of human history. One of the major events of the previous century is the Second World War. The massive casualties, huge destruction and other horrific losses have not yet been accurately estimated. However, the dropping nuclear bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6th and 9th of August, 1945 resulted in lowering the morale of the Japanese leadership, and then on August 15, the Japanese emperor officially announced the surrender.

As soon as Japan accepted defeat, major changes in world history began to take place. Several new countries began to emerge on the world map, and independence movements gained momentum in various colonial countries including British India.

Lord Mountbatten, the last viceroy of the British Empire, who also served as a naval officer in the World War, was appointed with a one-point agenda to divide India.

However, according to some historians, he was interested in making the Second World War victory more memorable by announcing to divide India on August 15. The consequences of this decision of the viceroy had to be borne by millions of innocent people on both sides of the border on the occasion of Partition.

The question is sometimes raised: when both countries achieved independence together at the same time, why is it that Pakistan celebrates its Independence Day on August 14 and India on August 15? In this regard, BBC Urdu, in its investigative reports, disclosed that no one was confused about Pakistan's Independence Day in the first year of independence.

Similarly, I remember that on August 18, 2008, former president Pervez Musharraf announced his resignation.

There is no doubt that Musharraf was one of the most powerful rulers of Pakistan, but the political will, wisdom and courage demonstrated by the PPP is indeed a golden chapter of the tireless struggle to strengthen democracy in the country and empower the people as the source of power.

Two years ago, in the month of August, a major change in our region took place in the form of the return of the Taliban to Kabul. Undoubtedly, the United States and the Western allies spent billions of dol-

lars in Afghanistan in twenty years, with a hope that the trained Afghan security agencies will counter the advancement of the Taliban. However, by the start of August 2021, the Taliban had taken control of the rural districts, and finally on August 15th, they reached the capital Kabul without any resistance.

This year, the Taliban regime in Afghanistan announced a public holiday on the 15th of August to mark the second anniversary of its return to power. On the completion of two years, the white flags of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan were hoisted all over the country. In my view, when the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan in the nineties, the western border of Pakistan became secure. Unfortunately, today the situation is quite different and complicated.

In our national history, the 17th of the month of August is also important in the sense that on this day in 1988, the death of president Gen Ziaul Haq and the then US ambassador to Pakistan in a mysterious air accident is still an unsolved mystery.

The effects of the social changes that took place at the state level in our society during his era can still be felt today. In this regard, the courageous role of legendary leader Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto is worth writing in golden words in our national political history. -- Courtesy TheNews

Commerce News

Effective policies key to achieve \$100bn export targets: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry Gohar Ijaz said on Friday that the government will work hard to increase Pakistan's exports to more than \$100 billion for sustainable economic growth and development.

Talking to PTV news, he stressed that the country needs to work hard to catch up with the emerging economies in the world, adding the country is presently facing big economic challenges, but they are not bigger than our capabilities and resolve to overcome them.

He further said that the agricultural, industrial and textile sectors can play an important role in increasing exports, reducing imports and achieving sustainable economic growth in the country.

Replying to a question, the minister said the Prime Minister has chosen a well-versed team that will succeed in the mission of holding free and fair general elections in the country.

In a comprehensive briefing, Mr. Ejaz was provided with a thorough understanding of the crucial functions and responsibilities entrusted to the Commerce Division and Industry.

With a visionary approach, Commerce Minister Gohar Ejaz has set forth ambitious goals for his tenure.

His resolute determination is aimed at propelling domestic exports to an impressive 80 billion dollars, reflecting his commitment to fortifying the nation's economic prowess. "I am steadfast in my resolve to

breathe new life into our commercial and industrial sectors," Minister Ejaz affirmed.

Addressing the challenges that loom in the commercial sector, Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz expressed his dedication to tackling complexities head-on.

He aimed to swiftly steer state enterprises towards profitability, demonstrating his adeptness at strategic decision-making in the pursuit of economic prosperity.

In a bid to foster innovation and industry growth, Gohar Ejaz revealed his plans to launch flagship projects within the Special Economic Zone, with a specific focus on the garments sector.

These initiatives are poised to stimulate economic activity.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce and Industry, Gohar Ejaz is being briefed at the Ministry of Industries and Production.

Dr Umar Saif takes charge as IT Minister, commits to propel ICT exports beyond \$10 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information Technology, Telecommunication, Science & Technology Dr Umar Saif on Friday expressed his commitment to propel the IT exports beyond \$10 billion and lead a nationwide digitalization effort.

Addressing the ministry officers after assuming the charge, he said, "My priorities are to fully implement the Digital Pakistan Vision and further promoting the of IT (information technology) & telecommunication sectors. We will take all the stakeholders on board in this regard."

The minister said increase in the ICT exports could help stabilise the economy and in the provision of decent employments to skilled people, as well as the desire to fully digitize all the government and semi-government departments, and organizations of the country.

Earlier on his arrival at the ministry, Dr Umar Saif, who took oath as minister on Thursday, was received by Secretary IT Navid Ahmed Shaikh along with other senior officers. He was introduced to all the officers and staff of the ministry. Later he was given a detailed briefing about the completed,

ongoing, and future projects of the IT Ministry.

Dr Umar Saif said as per the Constitution of Pakistan, the responsibilities and powers of the caretaker government were limited, as its main objective was to conduct free, fair and impartial general elections.

However, monitoring and taking care of the important ministerial affairs were also necessary during the period, he added. Dr Umar Saif is a very well-reputed and known figure in the world of ICT. He is the first Pakistani to receive a PhD in Computer Science from Cambridge University at the age of 23.

Shamshad chairs meeting to review revenue collection performance of FBR

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Shamshad Akhtar on Friday visited the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Headquarters and held a meeting with Chairman FBR Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana, Members of the Board to review the revenue collection performance of FBR.

Secretary Finance Imdad Ullah Bosal and senior officers from FBR and the finance ministry also attended the meeting, said a news release issued here.

During the meeting, Chairman FBR gave a detailed presentation to the minister about the revenue collection performance of FBR including the assigned targets for the current financial year 2023-24 and

the strategy to achieve them. He informed that FBR has collected Rs 7169 billion against a target of Rs 7200 billion in the previous financial year.

The chairman further apprised that all efforts will be made to meet this year's collection target of Rs 9415 billion.

Chairman FBR also informed the minister about the procedural improvements being made to simplify the process of paying taxes in order to facilitate the taxpayers.

He also gave an update on important initiatives of FBR including the Broadening of Tax Base, Track and Trace System, and Point of Sale System whereby efforts are afoot to further enhance revenue generation.



RAWALPINDI: A blacksmith preparing iron tools at his workplace.

PTA, PITB inaugurate Lahore IXP to boost digital connectivity

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) and Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) on Friday marked a historic milestone with the inauguration of the Lahore Internet Exchange Point (IXP).

The inauguration ceremony was held at Arfa Software Technology Park (ASTP) with esteemed industry leaders, government officials, vital stakeholders and prominent Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in attendance. International stakeholders namely Internet Society (ISOC), Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) and Japan Registry Services (JPRS) attended the event remotely. The launch event featured presentations and insightful speeches from key industry figures, emphasizing the IXP's potential to enhance digital infrastructure and support the growth of Pakistan's internet economy.

SAU, UNFAO agree to further develop Sindh and Balochistan agri sectors

HYDERABAD (APP): Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tando Jam and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO) have agreed to join hands to promote shared progress and advancement in agricultural endeavours across the Sindh and Balochistan regions, so that the farming community of backward areas can improve their lifestyle through sustainable agriculture.

This collaborative effort is aimed at strengthening research, development, and capacity-building programmes within the Sindh region, the university spokesman informed here on Friday adding that a delegation

comprising faculty members and directors and led by the Vice Chancellor Dr. Fateh Marri visited the UNFAO office, where the delegation was engaged with James Okhton, Head of UNFAO Sindh office.

Prof. Dr. Fateh Marri commended the UNFAO for its support to Sindh Agriculture University, Tandojam. He outlined the varsity's achievements and emphasized the institution's research priority areas, designed to address challenges posed by climate change and food security.

Dr. Marri said both organizations share the core values of ensuring seed security and building resilient agriculture at the national level.

Nuclear power plants may help overcome energy crisis: PCJCCI

LAHORE (APP): Pak-China Joint Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCJCCI) President Moazzam Ghurki said on Friday that electricity generation through nuclear power plants could help overcome energy crisis.

Talking to the media here, he said that global warming was causing gradual depletion of non-renewable sources of energy such as oil, gas and coal. This situation was compelling various countries including most of the European states to reconsider their energy policies.

Ghurki said that many of them were opting for energy production through nuclear power plants, which was not only safer, cheaper and effective but also supports self-reliance.

Punjab Governor says: Govt values cooperation of Asian Development Bank Punjab in dev. projects

LAHORE (Online): A delegation led by Ms. Jingmin Huang, Director of Water and Urban Development Sector Office of Asian Development Bank met Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman here today at Governor House Lahore. In the meeting, ongoing projects in Punjab with the support of Asian Development Bank were discussed.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that the government values the cooperation of Asian Development Bank Punjab in various development projects.

He said that the cooperation of Asian

Development Bank in various projects of urban facilities is commendable. Governor Punjab said that the Asian Development Bank's support in upgrading the Bahawalpur Solid Waste Management Company and the project to generate electricity from solid waste is a good project. He further said that Punjab government is willing to initiate sustainable infrastructure development program through structural reforms to achieve economic growth and social prosperity in the country with the support of Asian Development Bank.

He emphasized that the Asian Development Bank should assist the local government institutions in

the form of grants for capacity building so that the projects can be successfully implemented.

Governor Punjab said that he wants cooperation and collaboration from Asian Development Bank for development projects in flood affected areas, health, water management and urban development sectors.

On this occasion, Director of Water and Urban Development Sector Office of Asian Development Bank Jingmin Huang (Ms. Jingmin Huang) said that Asian Development Bank (ADB) is committed to continue supporting Pakistan's economic recovery and development projects.



LAHORE: A delegation led by Ms. Jingmin Huang, Director of Water and Urban Development Sector Office of Asian Development Bank in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

Muslim Council of Elders denounces attacks on Churches in Jaranwala

ISLAMABAD (APP): Under the guidance of the esteemed Grand Imam of Al-Azhar Dr. Ahmed Al-Tayeb, the Muslim Council of Elders on Friday vehemently denounced the recent assault on religious harmony in the wake of the Jaranwala incident.

According to a statement received here, extremists who defiled copies of the Holy Quran and initiated an unfortunate series of events have drawn sharp condemnation from the Council. The subsequent retaliatory strikes on multiple churches in Jaranwala, Pakistan, executed by yet another faction of extremists, have further intensified concerns.

Muslim Council of Elders Secretary-General, Judge Mohamed Abdelsalam, expressed strong dissent against such reprehensible actions.

He affirmed that these criminal deeds stand in stark contradiction to the values upheld by divine religions, laws, and human ethics. "The core principles of mutual respect and refraining from targeting places of worship are shared across these teachings. The Holy Quran's teachings are unambiguous in their emphasis on safeguarding places of worship and abstaining from any form of aggression directed towards them, he added.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali presides over the Pakistan Red Crescent society merged District (PRCSMDs) performance review meeting in Governor House.

Speakers stress for long term strategies, projects to counter extremism in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The speakers at an international conference here Friday called for chalking out and implementing long term strategies and projects to counter extremism in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The day-long conference was organized by the KP Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism.

Secretary Higher Education Anila Mahfouz Durrani, former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi, former DIG CTD and Executive Director of Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund from Geneva Khalid Kausar attended the conference as key speakers. On this occasion, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Geneva-based Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund and the Centre.

The agreement was aimed to increase the efficiency of the Center and prevention of extremism in the light of international experiences.

Speaking on the occasion, Secretary Higher Education Anila Durrani said that the KP Centre of Excellence on Countering Violent Extremism is the first center of excellence of its kind in South Asia and would act as a think tank in the fight against extremism.

PPP leader and former Deputy Speaker National Assembly Faisal Karim Kundi said that KP was currently facing critical issues including extremism and climate change.

He said Pakistan has to reconsider its foreign policy towards Afghanistan for peace in the region, adding that such interactions should be held regularly to combat extremism and promote tolerance in society.

Sami Saeed assumes charge as caretaker Planning Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Muhammad Sami Saeed, a retired seasoned bureaucrat, has assumed charge as the caretaker Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives, marking a significant development in the country's economic landscape.

He has an extensive experience in Planning, Development & Economic affairs.

On arrival at the ministry, he was welcomed by the Secretary of Planning Syed Zafar Ali Shah and senior officials.

Later, the minister chaired a meeting in which he was given a detailed briefing by the secretary about the functioning and responsibilities of the ministry and ongoing development and strategic initiatives of the ministry particularly the Public Sector Development Programme (PSDP), Annual Development Plan, China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and Special Investment Facilitation Center (SIFC). While chairing the meeting, Sami Saeed said that all officers of the ministry should work for the development of the country with full dedication and hard work.

The minister said that the implementation of public welfare projects should be ensured while special attention should be paid to the quality of the projects. Highlighting the importance of education, he said that more attention should be given to increasing the quality of education in the country.

Governor KP chairs Pakistan Red Crescent Merged area meeting

PESHAWAR (APP): The meeting of Pakistan Red Crescent merged districts under the Chairmanship of Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali were held here at Governor House on Friday.

The meeting was attended by the Chairman of the Red Crescent for the erstwhile tribal districts, Imran Khan, members of the managing committee, Principal Secretary to the Governor, Mazhar Irshad and others.

In the meeting, a detailed briefing was presented regarding the overall performance, aims and objectives, community services of Red Crescent District Branch.

The meeting also approved the nomination of 11 members for the managing committee of Pakistan Red Crescent.

Pakistan Red Crescent is a great name

and position in humanitarian services, Haji Ghulam Ali said.

He said the services of the Red Crescent for suffering humanity were commendable.

The Red Crescent should involve the local community in humanitarian services, Haji Ghulam Ali said.

The Red Crescent should establish strong links with benefactors at the local level, Haji Ghulam Ali further added.

At the local level, philanthropists and local communities are helpful for services and cooperation in natural disasters, Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said.

The governor urged the Red Crescent to prepare a list of volunteers at the Tehsil and District level in all the merged districts so that each and every work.



LAHORE: Chairman Pakistan Ex-Service Persons Society Lieutenant General (R) Abdul Qayyum addressing press conference along with others at Press Club in Provincial Capital.

International News

China's Xi calls for measures to mitigate disastrous flooding amid economic slowdown

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese leader Xi Jinping has called for measures to mitigate the effects of this year's disastrous flooding which has left scores dead and inflicted massive damage on crops, homes and infrastructure, including in and around Beijing.

At least 90 rivers have risen above warning levels and 24 have already overflowed their banks, according to state media, threatening a vast area in north-eastern China with flooding, including the Songliao Basin north of the capital, which encompasses more than 1.2 million square kilometers (482,200 square miles) with a population of almost 100 million. "As China is still in the main flood season, rainstorms, floods, typhoons and other disasters still occur frequently in many places across the country," the Xinhua News Agency said, summarizing conclusions of Thursday's meeting of the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee presided over by Xi.

China's Xi to attend BRICS leaders' meeting, visit South Africa

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: China's President Xi Jinping will attend the BRICS leaders' meeting and visit South Africa on Aug. 21-24, the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement on Friday. Leaders from the five BRICS countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa meet in Johannesburg next week from Aug. 22 to discuss how to turn a loose club of nations accounting for a quarter of the global economy into a geopolitical force that can challenge the West's dominance in world affairs.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who faces an international arrest warrant over alleged war crimes in Ukraine, will dial in by video call instead of attending in person. Expansion is expected to be high on the agenda, as some 40 nations have shown interest in joining, either formally or informally, according to South Africa. They include Saudi Arabia, Argentina and Egypt.

UK tribunal to hear Saima Mohsin's case against CNN

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: An unfair dismissal case filed by British Pakistani journalist Saima Mohsin against CNN will be heard by a tribunal in the UK, the journalist confirmed this week.

She tweeted, "I won! I won the hearing against CNN Employment Tribunal will hear my case on unfair dismissal #disability discrimination & #equalpay in London."

Ms Mohsin, who now works for Sky News, was left differently-abled after an accident while reporting from Jerusalem on the Israel-Palestine conflict in 2014.

Reports quote Ms Mohsin as saying her cameraman ran over her foot in a car, causing severe tissue damage that left her struggling to sit, stand and walk or return to work full-time Ms Mohsin said that although she requested for alternative duties and support for rehabilitation from CNN, she was refused.

This week, she posted a statement to confirm that an employment tribunal in the UK will hear her case. Ms Mohsin welcomed the news.



People gather outside a building after a strong earthquake shook Colombian capital Bogotá, prompting evacuations of offices and restaurants, in Bogotá, Colombia.



People line up outside of a local school to register to be evacuated, as wildfires threatened the Northwest Territories town of Yellowknife, Canada.

Red Cross set to end funding at 25 hospitals across Afghanistan

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: THE International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is likely to end the financial running of 25 Afghan hospitals by the end of August due to funding constraints, a spokesperson said, amid growing concerns over a plunge in aid to Afghanistan.

"Although we continue to engage with government ministries, donors, and organisations to find alternative sustainable support mechanisms for the hospital sector, the phase-out of the Hospital Programme is expected to

happen tentatively at the end of August," Diogo Alcantara, ICRC's spokesperson for Afghanistan, said. "The ICRC does not have the mandate nor the resources to maintain a fully functioning public health-care sector in the longer term," Alcantara said.

In April, ICRC said its governing board approved 430 million Swiss francs (\$475.30m) in cost reductions over 2023 and early 2024 and a rolling back of operations in some locations as budgets for humanitarian aid were expected to decrease.

UN suspends services in Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon over gunmen inside its facilities

Monitoring Desk
BEIRUT: The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees says it has decided to suspend all of its services in Lebanon's largest refugee camp on Friday in protest against the presence of gunmen in its facilities.

UNRWA's decision went into effect shortly before noon Friday at the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp near the southern port city of Sidon. Services will resume Saturday, UNRWA said. Days of street battles took place in the camp between the Fatah group of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and two Islamic militant groups, Jund al-Sham and Shabab al Muslim. The clashes broke out on July 30, after Fatah accused its rivals of shooting dead a senior Fatah military official.

The fighting killed at least 13 people, injured dozens and caused millions of dollars' of damage in the camp, according to UNRWA officials. Lebanese security forces don't operate inside the refugee camps, where security is in the hands of Palestinian factions who often compete for clout.

UNRWA said in its statement Friday that armed fighters are still present in its facilities, including schools.

US approves sending F-16s to Ukraine from Denmark and Netherlands

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The United States has approved sending F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine from Denmark and the Netherlands to defend against Russian invaders as soon as pilot training is completed, a US official said on Thursday.

Ukraine has actively sought the US-made F-16 fighter jets to help it counter Russian air superiority. Washington gave Denmark and the Netherlands official assurances that the United States will expedite approval of transfer requests for F-16s to go to Ukraine when the pilots are trained, the official said.

"We welcome Washington's decision to pave the way for sending F-16 fighter jets to Ukraine," Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra said on messaging platform

X, formerly known as Twitter. "Now, we will further discuss the subject with our European partners."

Denmark and the Netherlands had recently asked for those assurances. The US must approve the transfer of military jets from its allies to Ukraine.

A coalition of 11 countries was due to start training Ukrainian pilots to fly the F-16 fighter jets this month in Denmark. Denmark's acting Defence Minister Troels Poulsen said in July that the country hoped to see "results" from the training in early 2024. Nato members Denmark and the Netherlands have been leading international efforts to train pilots as well as support staff, maintain aircraft and ultimately enable Ukraine to obtain F-16s for use in its war with Russia.

Taipei mayor to visit China as tensions simmer with Taiwan

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: The mayor of Taipei will visit Shanghai at the end of this month for an annual city forum, his office said on Friday, a trip that will take place against the backdrop of frozen ties between the Taiwanese and Chinese governments.

While China has refused to speak to Taiwan's government since President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016, believing she is a separatist, city-to-city exchanges had continued until interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Still, Tsai's administration has cautiously been trying to reopen less sensitive people-to-people links since it lifted pandemic-related border controls late last year, aiming to engender goodwill with China, and a group of Shanghai officials made a low-key visit to Taipei in February.

Taipei Mayor Chiang Wan-an, from the main opposition party the Kuomintang, which tradi-

tionally favours close relations with China, will go to Shanghai on Aug. 29-31 for the Taipei-Shanghai City Forum, which was first held in 2010.

The Taipei city government said Chiang, a rising Kuomintang star, would lead the delegation to the forum, the theme of which this year is "new trends, new development".

The Kuomintang has pushed to resume contacts with China since pandemic controls were lifted, saying that dialogue was needed now more than ever given the tensions over Taiwan.

China, which claims the island as its territory, has been carrying out military activities near Taiwan, including regularly sending fighter jets into the airspace around it. "When the situation across the Taiwan Strait is tense, we have a need even more for communication and exchanges, and the two cities forum can be that kind of platform," Chiang told reporters in Taipei.

“No Leniency!” President enhances penalty upon woman harasser

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi has enhanced the penalty for workplace harassment, imposed upon the Director for Human Resource Management (HRM) in NEPRA, to “dismissal from service”.

He held that sending text messages to a female colleague, asking her to stay in the office beyond office hours with an ulterior motive, making unwanted advances, and intimidating her to face dire consequences in case of her refusal to assent to his unethical demands constituted harassment, and warranted no leniency.

While deciding upon a workplace harassment case, the president in his decision wrote that statements of the complainant, witnesses, CCTV footage, WhatsApp messages, and the email fully established the fact of harassment, President House media wing said in a press release on Friday.

He said that the accused himself had also admitted his guilt by implication and his only grievance before the President was regarding the severity of punishment. “The principle of reasonableness and proportionality demands that the penalty is modified

to dismissal as it is commensurate with the gravity of the offence”, he added.

The president rejected the representation filed by Ahmad Nadeem (the accused), Director HRM in National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) and changed the minor penalty of “withholding two increments” imposed by the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace (FOSPWH) to “dismissal from service”.

Earlier, a female Office Assistant (the complainant), had filed workplace harassment in NEPRA al-

leging that the accused used to call her into his office, discussed personal matters, passed comments on her looks, tried to physically approach her, invited her to have lunch and dinner, and used to send unnecessary and inappropriate text messages.

The Internal Harassment Committee (IHC) of NEPRA conducted a detailed inquiry and concluded that the allegations of harassment stood established against the accused and recommended imposing the major penalty of “reduction to a lower post” from Director to Deputy Director.



KARACHI: Traders are holding protest demonstration against the price hike of petroleum products, at Boltan Market in Karachi

Parliament to continue its role in making Pakistan disaster resilient: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf on Friday said the Parliament of Pakistan would continue its role in making the country disaster resilient and climate adaptive for a sustainable and healthy future for the coming generations. The Speaker National Assembly was addressing to the concluding ceremony of the third-day first ever Pakistan Expo on Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 (PEDRR-23). Raja Pervaiz Ashraf in his keynote address congratulated the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

and National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) for organising the important forum of PEDRR-23. He also appreciated the experts, speakers and others for their valuable contributions shared at different seminars, and dialogues held during the Expo. He said the NDMA had rightly placed global focus on putting capacity building of vulnerable countries like Pakistan. “The country being among the top ten countries most vulnerable to climate change despite less than one percent of carbon emissions was similar to face the out-

come of what that it had not done,” he added.

The Speaker underscored that the monster monsoon floods of 2022 badly disrupted life in Pakistan whereas the international community was forthcoming in supporting the country. He added that the already ailing economy of Pakistan could not sustain another disaster with inadequate capacity. The National Assembly Speaker said the country realised that national preparedness was more economic than financing post-disaster initiatives. He said, “We must improve techni-

cal archiving and knowledge-based decision making for effective disaster management.”

Raja Ashraf mentioned that he was briefed on the NDMA efforts along with other partners in shaping locally made national plans for disaster management and risk reduction.

The Speaker mentioned that cloud bursts, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), torrential rains and heatwaves were beyond human control but to respond to it was in its capacity. “National Assem-

bly, SDGs task force and standing committees are always at the forefront of government’s climate decisions’ scrutiny,” he added.

“I have personally raised the issue of Pakistan’s vulnerability and food security due to climate change at various regional and international forums. Let’s join hands and act as climate activists to mitigate climate change risks effectively,” he said.

Earlier, the highlights of the three-day engagements of PEDRR-23 were showcased before the participants.



ISLAMABAD: Care taker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan chaired introductory meeting of the Senior Officers of Ministry and all head of attack departments.

Board of Revenue Balochistan selects PTCL Smart Cloud for E-Stamping Project



Independent Report

QUETTA: Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited (PTCL) and Board of Revenue Balochistan have signed an agreement for provisioning of IaaS Smart Cloud Services at PTCL’s Tier-III Data Center for Land Record Management System (LRMS) and Fiber Optic Connectivity at Facilitation Centers at different districts of the province.

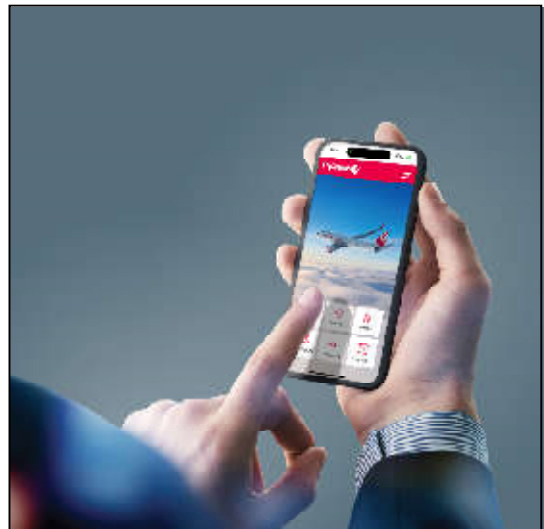
Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, PTCL and Roshan Ali Sheikh Senior Member, Board of Revenues Balochistan signed the agreement at a special ceremony of “Balochistan E-Stamping Project (Energized by PTCL Smart Cloud) and Revenue Sahooliyat Center Quetta (Board of Revenue Balochistan); recently held at Quetta Club, Quetta Cantt Balochistan, Bank of Punjab as a collection agent partner and Systems Limited as Technology Partner were also present at the ceremony.

While addressing to the ceremony Zarrar Hasham Khan, Group Chief Business Solutions Officer, said “Today is an important day for the people of Balochistan. PTCL is proud to be the important pillar of this digital transformation and Modern technology adaptation by providing Smart Cloud solution in PTCL’s Tier III Data Center facility and fastest Internet and data connectivity through its Fiber Optic network in Gwadar, Quetta and far-flung areas across the province. He further added that This project will be the largest database of Balochistan. With the support of Balochistan government, this project will be expanded across the province. PTCL Will continue to play role in the development and better of Balochistan.”

Senior Member Board of Revenue, Roshan Ali Sheikh, said, “Inauguration of Balochistan E-Stamping Project and Facility Center Quetta is a historic initiative of government. The launch of e-stamping will be a big success, a substantial boost to revenue. Digital technology will stop tax collection leakages and ease the public.

Fly Jinnah launches Mobile App for enhanced passenger convenience

KARACHI (PR): Fly Jinnah, Pakistan’s new low-cost carrier (LCC), announces the launch of its brand-new mobile application, designed to provide passengers with unparalleled convenience and a seamless travel experience.



With the new Fly Jinnah mobile app, passengers can now effortlessly book and manage their flights, making travel arrangements more convenient than ever before. The user-friendly interface allows users to explore flight options, select preferred seats, and choose from a variety of additional services such as adding baggage and meal selection. This ensures that passengers have complete control over their travel plans, right at their fingertips.

One of the key features of the Fly Jinnah mobile app is the integrated check-in process. Avoiding long queues at airport counters, passengers can now conveniently check-in for their flights through the app, saving valuable time and avoiding unnecessary hassle. Furthermore, the app provides passengers with digital boarding passes, eliminating the need for printed

copies and making the boarding process smoother and more efficient.

In addition to its booking and check-in functionalities, the new mobile app also offers passengers access to the airline’s generous loyalty program. Passengers can effortlessly track their loyalty points and redeem rewards directly through the app. In addition to that, passengers can check flight status and contact customer support for help if required. This personalized experience further highlights Fly Jinnah’s commitment

Justice Mansoor suggests full court to hear NAB amendments case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Justice Mansoor Ali Shah of Supreme Court (SC) has proposed to constitute full court to hear NAB amendment case. The NAB amendment case came up for hearing before SC Friday. Giving proposal for constitution of full court Justice Mansoor Ali Shah remarked court should decide practice and procedure act case or constitute full court. The decision on the petitions filed against SC practice and procedure act has yet to come. Citing to note written by him in military trial case he remarked this case should be heard by full court. Today I request CJP that NAB amendment case should be heard by full court. The practice and procedure act case has yet not been decided. Had Supreme Court Practice and Procedure act been decided then the matter would have been different.

Assets case: SC fixes plea seeking revocation of Maryam bail for hearing on Aug 22

ISLAMABAD (Online): Petition seeking revocation of bail of PM-L-N senior vice president Maryam Nawaz has been fixed for hearing in Supreme Court (SC).

A two members bench of SC presided over by Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial will hear the case on August 22. Justice Athar Minallah is also part of the bench.

Measles claims four lives in Thana Bula Khan’s village

HYDERABAD (APP): The measles virus has reportedly claimed the lives of four children in Azad Gabol village in Thana Bula Khan taluka of Jamshoro district.

A health team from the District Health Office on Friday visited the village and immunized the children.

The District Health Officer Imamuddin Khoso told the media that three years old Rukhsana, daughter of Huzoor Bux, had died a few days ago while the remaining three children

passed away recently.

The deceased have been identified as eight months old Ayaz, Kubra (three) and 10 years old Abu Bakar. The local residents told the media that more than two dozen kids in the same village were suffering from similar health conditions. Dr Naeem Rajput of the Expanded Program for Immunization (EPI) Sindh, District Supervisor EPI Dr Imtiaz, DHO Khoso and other health officers visited the village and other nearby villages to take stock of the situation.

PM grieved over death of MQM leader Kanwar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday expressed grief over the death of Muttahida Qaumi Movement leader Kanwar Naveed Jameel.

The prime minister prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

He also prayed to Allah Almighty to grant strength to the bereaved family to bear the loss with equanimity.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Law and Justice Ahmad Irfan Aslam was given a presentation by the Secretary Law on his arrival at the Ministry.

Solangi meets Marriyum, discusses matters related to Information Ministry

RAWALPINDI (APP): Solangi also met with the children and family members of Marriyum Aurangzeb.

Murtaza Solangi congratulated former Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb for running the Information Ministry in the best possible manner during 16 months of the PDM tenure.

Appreciating Marriyum Aurangzeb, he said that the enactment of the PEMRA (Amendment) Bill 2023 was a manifestation of democratic credentials and consultation skills. Solangi said that he would try to continue the standard of performance that she had established.

Earlier on the arrival, Marriyum Aurangzeb along with her mother Tahira Aurangzeb and other family members welcomed the Caretaker Information Minister Murtaza Solangi and also presented him with a bouquet of flowers.

She prayed for him to successfully perform national responsibility as caretaker information minister. The caretaker information minister Murtaza

AJK president meets PM; invites to address LA

ISLAMABAD (APP): President of Azad Jammu and Kashmir Barrister Sultan Mahmood Chaudhry on Friday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar here.

The AJK president congratulated the prime minister on assuming the office and expressed good wishes for him. He extended an invitation to the prime minister to visit Azad Kashmir and address the AJK Legislative Assembly.

Prime Minister Kakar assured the unconditional support of Pakistan to the Kashmir cause.

“We will continue to stand side by side the people of Kashmir in their struggle for their right to self-determination,” he remarked.

Bugti says: Citizens’ protection is state responsibility

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker interior minister Sarfraz Bugti said Protection is state’s first responsibility. Jaranwala incident was shameful and against the teachings of Holy Prophet (S.A.W), he added.

Sarfraz bugti said no group is allowed to do violence and corruption will not be tolerated in any situation. According to details federal caretaker minister Sarfraz Bugti arrived in interior ministry and officially took over the charge. Interior secretary Syed Ali Murtaza and others paid reception to newly appointed caretaker interior minister.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary/ Chairman Railways is welcoming the Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways, Capitan (R) Shahid Ashraf Tarar at Ministry of Railways.

Railways Minister vows to ensure passengers’ safety

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Railways Captain (R) Shahid Ashraf Tarar on Friday vowed to ensure the safety of the passengers and the best facilities during train travels.

The Minister shared the remarks after taking charge of his office said. Officials of the Ministry of Railways were present on the occasion.

Federal Secretary Railways Syed Mazhar Ali Shah briefed the Minister on the administrative and operational functions of the Railways.

He directed the Ministry staff to take all possible measures for the convenience of the passengers.

Shahid Tarar instructed the department concerned to conduct an audit and assessment regarding the safety of passengers and submit a report within seven days.

The federal minister stated that Main Line-1 is an important and strategic project for Pakistan that will revamp the railway sector and generate more revenue for the department.



HYDERABAD: Commission for Interfaith Dialogue Catholic Diocese of Hyderabad Leader, Father Shehzad Khokar addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club

Sensitization program on remittances for workers going abroad launched

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) and the Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BE&OE) jointly launched on Friday the Pre-Departure Briefing Program to sensitize workers going abroad about the process of sending remittances to home and relevant schemes by the government and banks.

The program will be organized in all Protectorate of Emigrants (PE) Offices across Pakistan to educate intending overseas workers about formal channels for sending remittances, assist them in opening bank accounts, especially joint accounts, highlight the risks involved in using informal channels and update outgoing workers about government’s programs

and schemes as well as banks’ products related to home remittances.

Executive Director SBP Akhtar Javed and Director General, BE&OE Karam Ali Khawaja launched the program in a ceremony that was attended by the senior officials of SBP, PRI, BE&OE and representatives of the large remittance mobilizing banks, said a statement issued here.

The Pre-Departure Briefing Program, developed by Pakistan Remittance Initiative (PRI) in collaboration with Bureau of Emigration and Overseas Employment (BE&OE) and banks, is considered the key initiative for domestic outreach for educating outgoing workers to use formal channels for sending home remittances.



KARACHI: Residence of Martin Quarter holds protest on road at PIB Colony against the shortage of water and load shedding of electricity in Provincial Capital