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Meets Iranian president PM reaffirms Pakistan's commitment to further strengthen ties with Iran

Kakar attends 78th UNGA opening session; Calls for adequate financing, actions in key areas to achieve SDGs

NEW YORK (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday held a bilateral meeting with the President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi wherein he reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to further strengthen and deepen ties with Iran, with particular focus on enhancing cooperation in the economic domain.

The meeting took place on the sidelines of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly.

Underscoring the close fraternal relations between the two neighboring coun-

tries, the prime minister stressed that steps including the recent inauguration of the Mand-Border border marketplace, would not only contribute to the economic uplift of the border areas but also serve as a tangible manifestation of the collective commitment to work for the betterment of the two peoples.

Noting that President Raisi's policy of 'Neighborhood First' was fully aligned with Pakistan's vision for regional development and connectivity, he emphasised the importance for both countries to lever-

age their unique geographical location to promote shared objectives of regional peace and prosperity, through greater trade and enhanced regional connectivity Pakistan-Iran relations are characterized by regular high-level exchanges, commonality of views on important regional and global issues and strengthened cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday, expressing Pakistan's support for the Global Development Initiative (GDI),

highlighted the need for adequate financing and called for action in key areas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The prime minister, addressing the High Level Meeting on Global Development Initiative (GDI) Cooperation Outcomes, urged for action in five key areas including food production, infrastructure investment, industrialization, resilient healthcare systems and the bridging digital divide.

He highlighted the necessity of adequate and appropriate finance at all levels of the development pro-

cess and welcomed Chinese President Xi Jinping's announcement of setting up another fund of \$10 billion dedicated to the implementation of the GDI.

The prime minister highlighted that progress towards achieving the SDGs had suffered a serious setback due to the poly crises of COVID-19, conflict and climate change.

He expressed Pakistan's support for the GDI and commended the milestones achieved in its implementation, the most recent being the successful launch of the Inter-Agency Task Force on GDI.



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in a meeting with meeting with the President of Iran Ebrahim Raisi.

Our standard of professionalism, leadership par excellence to world's any modern army: COAS

RAWALPINDI (APP): Chief of Army Staff, General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday said the Pakistan Army's standard of professionalism and leadership was par excellence compared to any modern army of the world.

However, the Junior leaders of the Pakistan Army have proven their mettle in the fields of training, operations, and world-class competitions across the world," the COAS said.

The Opening Ceremony of Multi-National Special Forces Exercise "Eternal Brotherhood-II" was held at Barotha. Special Forces contingents from Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkiye, and Uzbekistan are participating in a two-week long exercise, an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The Army Chief visited Barotha Garrison and

interacted with the exercising participants. He was briefed on the scope and conduct of the exercise by the General officer Commanding Special Service Group.

The exercise is aimed at further harnessing the historic military-to-military relations among the friendly countries, including nurturing of joint employment concept, while identifying areas of mutual interest for future military collaborations and benefiting from each other's experience against terrorism. Prior to visiting Barotha, the COAS also visited Junior Leadership Academy (JLA) Shinkari, which is the Center of Excellence for training of Non Commissioned Officers.

He laid floral wreath at Yadgar e Shuhada (The Martyrs Monument) and addressed the participants of the Academy.

COAS remarked that "Junior Leaders are the backbone of Pakistan Army and are key to success in Conventional and Unconventional Warfare." On arrival at JLA and Barotha, COAS was received by Inspector General Training & Evaluation.

Online adds: Opening Ceremony of Multi-National Special Forces Exercise "Eternal Brotherhood-II" was held at Barotha. Special Forces contingents from Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Qatar, Turkiye and Uzbekistan are participating in two weeks long exercise.

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ATTOCK: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir interacts with participants during Opening Ceremony of Multi-National Special Forces Exercise "Eternal Brotherhood-II" at Barotha Garrison in Attock.

World must accept India is rogue Hindutva terrorist state: Bilawal

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan's former Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has said it is the time for the international community to accept that India has become a "rogue Hindutva terrorist state".

He said this after Canada revealed India's involvement in the killing of a Sikh leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, on its soil.

The 45-year-old Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot dead outside a Sikh temple on June 18 in Surrey, a Vancouver suburb with a large Sikh population. Nijjar supported Khalistan state, an independent homeland for the Sikhs, by separating

Punjab from India.

Pakistan Peoples Party Chairman and former foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari speaking to the media in Lahore, today, said Canada has levelled a "big allegation" against India. He said India has been "exposed before the world".

He said, "Till when the international community, particularly our friends in the West, will continue to ignore such events involving India. It is time for the international community to accept that India has become a rogue Hindutva terrorist state."



NEW YORK: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar is attending the opening session of the General Debate of 78th UNGA session at the UN headquarters.

Pakistan to roll out first ever MRV system for monitoring GHG emissions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan, in its concerted and active effort to tackle the crisis of climate change has achieved another milestone of establishing its first ever measurement, reporting and verification and monitoring and evaluation (MRV&ME) system for monitoring its greenhouse gas emissions.

The system will be an information technology-based solution that will help collate scientific evidence from across the country on its carbon emissions causing environmental degradation for informed policy making and course setting to achieve internationally pledged commitments and targets. The Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination's

Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) organized a three-day forum titled 'Transparency Platform for Pakistan (RISQ): A Climate Transparency: Knowledge Sharing, the Climate Transparency project in Pakistan.' In his opening remarks, Head-Agriculture and Coordination, GCISC, Arif Goheer said the vagaries of climate change were evident and demanded a concerted and continuous effort to overcome the challenges posed by climate-induced disasters.

"Scientific evidence clearly indicates that climate action should be effective and robust which is known as transparency in the jargon of climate science.

Pak electoral roll swells to 127 Million

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) unveiled voter data spanning from 2018 to 2023 on Tuesday, indicating a notable rise in the total count of registered voters across the nation, growing from approximately 105.95 million (105,955,409) in 2018 to nearly 127 million (126,980,272) as of July this year.

The count of male voters has exceeded 68.50 million (68,508,258), while female voters will reach 58.47 million (58,472,014) in 2023.

When considering the country's major urban areas, Islamabad has seen a rise from 765,447 in 2018 to over 1.04 million (1,041,554) this year, as per the data provided by the electoral commission.

This year, the total count of voters in Punjab has reached 72.3 million (72,310,582), a notable increase from 60.6 million (60,672,771) in 2018. In Sindh, the number has risen from 22.3 million (22,391,244) in 2018 to 26.6 million (26,651,161) in 2023.

Pervaiz Elahi sent to jail on 14-day judicial remand

LAHORE (INP): A judicial magistrate's court in Lahore has sent PTI president Pervaiz Elahi to jail on a 14-day judicial remand.

As per details, the court heard two cases against former chief minister Punjab and PTI president.

The court rejected the plea seeking physical remand of the PTI president and sent him to jail on a 14-day judicial remand.

Pervaiz Elahi's counsel urged the court to shift the PTI leader back to Adiala Jail. The court accepted the request and sent him to Adiala Jail.

Earlier, Lahore High Court (LHC) sought replies from Punjab police and Superintendent Jail regarding the re-arrest of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Pervaiz Elahi.

IMF seeks report from Pakistan on smuggling of petroleum products

ISLAMABAD (Online): IMF has sought report from Pakistan on smuggling of petroleum products.

According to media reports IMF has expressed concern over smuggling of 120000 tons petroleum products monthly.

According to FBR sources IMF has sought report from ministry of finance and FBR on smuggling of petroleum products. Report on the steps taken so far to curb this smuggling has also been summoned.

Sources said smuggling is causing loss of over Rs 10 billion under head of custom and levy.

IMF has demanded that smuggling of 143 million liters petroleum products per month be stopped. There will be a revenue short fall due to decrease in imports bill in the face of rise in smuggling of petroleum products. IMF has directed FBR and ministry of finance to take steps to enhance revenue.

Earlier IMF had sought written agreement from ministry of finance on tough conditionalities to provide relief in electricity bills.

Pakistan, Norwegian FM agree to strengthen bilateral cooperation

NEW YORK (APP): Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and his Norwegian counterpart Foreign Minister Anniken Huitfeldt have agreed to work towards the enhancement of bilateral cooperation.



In a meeting held on the margins of the 78th UNGA Session in New York, both sides appreciated 75 years of Pakistan-Norway friendship.

Both foreign ministers expressed satisfaction on the exchange of ministerial visits between both countries during the first half of 2023 and emphasized increasing the volume of exchange of visits and regular interactions.

The two foreign ministers discussed regional and international issues of mutual concern including risks to global peace, and agreed on the importance of multilateralism and a rule-based approach to address regional and global challenges.

Govt committed to promote sports activities: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday said the caretaker government was committed to promoting sports activities in order to bring about positive change in the society.

The minister expressed the resolve during a meeting with Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Zaka Ashraf.

Different matters including cooperation between Pakistan Television (PTV) Sports and PCB were discussed in the meeting.

Solangi said the PTV Sports had been playing a pivotal role to promote the sports culture and it had gained huge popularity among the viewers across the country.

He reaffirmed the caretaker government's resolve and support for promoting the sports, especially cricket.

The minister acknowledged the role of PCB in promoting cricket in the country.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi in a group photo with Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Zaka Ashraf and other officials

SC orders to implement law regarding prisoners' release on probation

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the authorities concerned to immediately implement laws pertaining to the release of prisoners on probation.

The Supreme Court, in a five-page written decision authored by Justice Athar Minallah, also ordered the federal and provincial governments to ensure the release of prisoners eligible for release on probation.

It observed that serious violations of human rights were taking place in prisons across the country.

The provision of constitutional rights to the prisoners in jail had become impossible due to overcrowding in prisons, it added, observing that the majority of the people who suffered from lack of facilities in prisons were poor, while the state was also not playing a role in providing cheap and quick justice to them.

It further said that the criminal system allowed the exploitation of the weaker sections of society by the powerful.

Shahbaz Sharif reaches Lahore

LAHORE (Online): Former Prime Minister (PM) Shahbaz Sharif has reached Lahore from London. President PML-N has returned to Lahore after his one month stay in London.

Shahbaz Sharif held several important meetings with PML-N Quaid during his stay in London besides making announcement of Nawaz Sharif return to Pakistan. Shahbaz Sharif participated in several party meetings in London. According to sources Shahbaz Sharif will now review the preparations in connection with reference to Nawaz Sharif return to Pakistan.

US will continue to support democracy in Pakistan: says Elizabeth Horst

NEW YORK (Online): Elizabeth Horst, the US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Pakistan has said US government will continue to support democracy in Pakistan but it does not support any specific person or party.

Addressing a seminar in New York she said credible election are included in support for democracy.

She held US will continue to support such credible election in Pakistan which are free from violence and they allow the people to decide who rules them.

She urged Pakistan to continue implement reforms proposed by IMF because it is the only way of solidifying its weak economy.

She clarified US troops pull out from Afghanistan gave opportunity to US to look at bilateral ties with Pakistan. The important aspects like economic security and political situation have been encompassed in these relations.

Addressing the political aspect of this relationship she said US is supporter of democracy in Pakistan but it does not support any specific person or party. We support people of Pakistan who has right to elect their next government, she said. Ambassador (Donald) Blome has delivered this message to all institutions and all parties, and I have delivered the same message."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Privatization Mr. Fawad Hassan Fawad called on Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue & Economic Affairs, Dr Shamshad Akhtar, at Finance Division.

Govt increases traffic violation fines on motorways

ISLAMABAD (INP): The government has announced a massive increase of up to 200pc in traffic rules violation fines on national highways and motorways across the country.

The fine for over-speeding on motorways and highways has been increased to Rs2000. The maximum speed limit for light vehicles is 120 km/h and for heavy vehicles is 110 km/h.

The police will now charge motorcyclists, cars, and LTV drivers driving without license with Rs. 5,000 fine and HTV and PSV drivers with Rs. 10,000 penalty. Violation of lanes will now cost Rs. 1,000 for motorcyclists, cars, and LTV drivers and Rs. 5,000 for HTV and PSV drivers.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

The Isa epoch

In a ceremony marked by constitutional gravitas as well as what some might term rightful vindication, Justice Qazi Faez Isa assumed the mantle of the chief justice of Pakistan on Sunday, heralding what the nation hopes will be a period of judicial prudence and wisdom. The optics of the event were rich with irony, with the president, who had previously filed a reference against the Supreme Court judge over alleged misconduct and non-disclosure of assets, himself administering the oath. With the new chief justice's spouse standing by his side, it was a symbolic moment that sent "a clear message of steadfastness", as put by one participant.

The new chief justice jumped right into action and constituted a full court to preside over his inaugural hearing as chief justice, one that aims to resolve nine challenges to a law that, among other things, requires the formation of benches on constitutional matters of public importance by a committee of three senior Supreme Court judges.

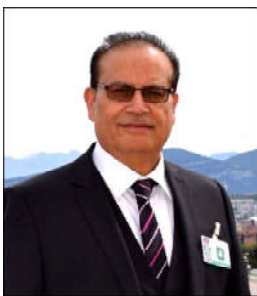
In a first for the country, he also ordered the proceedings to be broadcast live to the public. The constitution of a full court — a rarity in the court of the previous Supreme Court chief justice — and the live telecast of the hearing, can be viewed as a promising start, a sign that Chief Justice Isa is keen to chart a path firmly rooted in jurisprudential integrity rather than the shifting sands of populism that marred his predecessor's tenure.

Former chief justice Umar Ata Bandial was at one point lambasted by fellow members of the judiciary for having begun to run a "one-man" show, and so his time in office saw more controversy than judicious stewardship of the nation's highest legal office.

Justice Isa takes charge at a time when the judiciary faces a myriad of challenges, from more than 50,000 cases pending before the apex court out of some 2.2m to be decided overall, to the critical task of restoring the public's confidence in the justice system. Moreover, there is the ever-looming test of safeguarding the judiciary's independence in the face of executive incursions.

Some of the more pressing concerns, however, include the delay in general elections, the trial of civilians in military court, and pending references against the chief justice's colleague Justice Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi. It is precisely these challenges that lend the new chief justice the opportunity to carve out a legacy of robust judicial leadership, guided by a moral compass that remains unswayed by the tempestuous winds of political expedience. As he embarks on this pivotal journey, we hold out measured, but optimistic hope that under his leadership, the top court will not only adjudicate, but guide the nation towards a path paved with justice, equality and the rule of law.

A New Era, with new Leadership



By Qamar Bashir
Former Press Secretary to the President; Former Press Minister to the Embassy of Pakistan to France; Former MD, SRBC

These truly are remarkable times in Pakistan, marked by an unprecedented alignment of leadership in all three pillars of the state, with each being helmed by individuals from Balochistan. It signifies a historical shift in governance and vision for the nation.

Muhammad Sadiq Sanjarani, the Chairman of the Senate since his oath-taking on March 12, 2018, possesses a kind, straightforward, and affable demeanor. He excels at building friendships and is often the go-to negotiator to mediate between political factions. His tenure, during challenging times, has been marked by a non-controversial approach, efficiently handling the vital and sensitive role of Chairman of the Senate while keeping senators from both sides in good spirits.

Anwar ul Haq Kakar, our Prime Minister, has captivated the nation with his clear objectives. He is resolute in following the constitution and upholding the rule of law under all circumstances. His commitment extends to establishing the government's authority and the state's writ at any cost, prioritizing the interests of the people, and ensuring justice for the abhorrent events of May 9th, all while fearlessly confronting entrenched mafias. He advocates for

truthfulness, shunning false promises and providing the public with an honest view of the nation's economic and political landscape, even when it may appear unsettling. He is resolute about not interfering with the workings and mandates of constitutional bodies. Anwar ul Haq Kakar seeks to build upon the positive policies of previous governments, maintain equitable relationships with neighbors and international powers, all while safeguarding the nation's dignity and sovereignty. He is unafraid to make tough and unpopular decisions, exemplified by his crackdown on various mafias and his commitment to national interests.

Qazi Faez Esa, another eminent Balochistani, hailing from Pishin, located in the vicinity of Quetta, has emerged as a dynamic Chief Justice. He boldly broke stereotypes by inviting his wife to stand beside him during his oath-taking, signaling gender equality and the equal status of women in society. His refusal to use a bulletproof car, close roads, or receive guard of honor underscores his commitment to simplicity and avoiding unnecessary pomp.

In his very first address to his staff, Chief Justice Qazi Faez Esa set a profound tone by emphasizing that litigants and the general public do not approach the Supreme Court with pleasure. He directed the entire Supreme Court staff to treat litigants and the public with respect and dignity, akin to how a good host treats guests.

He made history by convening a full court session with 15 judges, sending a reassuring message to Pakistan's 240 million citizens that the judiciary, once perceived as divided, would now function in unison. He relinquished his power to take suo moto notice of public matters and mandated consultation with two other senior judges, transforming the process into an objective exercise rooted in consultation, deliberation, and

consensus-building. This move reduced objections from affected parties who previously perceived it as subjective and aggressive.

Chief Justice Qazi Faez Esa achieved a significant milestone by allowing the live telecast of court proceedings. This decision unequivocally communicates the judiciary's commitment to deciding cases based solely on merit and in strict adherence to constitutional provisions.

These developments put a damper on the expectations of political players and establishments, as favorable decisions, which were elusive under previous chief justices, are now less likely to be influenced.

Crucially, gray areas in legislation that were intentionally created to circumvent the law and the constitution are poised to be addressed, potentially quashed or nullified to reinstate the constitution's supremacy and the rule of law.

The question arises: why can Mr. Anwar Kakar take bold decisions despite being a politician? Why can he crack down on unscrupulous elements stealing electricity, burdening those who pay bills on time, and depriving the national exchequer of revenue? Why did previous governments not act against electricity thieves despite having the capability to do so?

Why were illegal exchange companies, Hundi, and Hawala dealers allowed to siphon off precious foreign exchange, devaluing the Rupee? The Rupee, at times, even lost value against the Afghan Afghani, not due to economic weakness, but because of the smuggling of Pakistan's foreign exchange to Afghanistan, facilitated by elements within our own security and regulatory agencies.

Why could Mr. Kakar crackdown on sugar, flour, petrol, and manure mafias that deprived our people of essential goods while smuggling them to Afghanistan and Central Asia, causing hardship and even death to

many Pakistanis?

Why can Sadiq Sanjarani effectively lead the Senate, and why could Qazi Faez Esa unite a previously divided Supreme Court and allow live telecasts without hesitation?

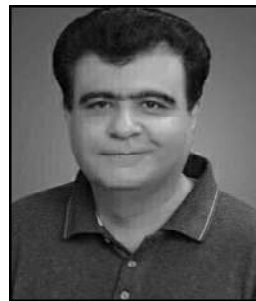
The answers to these questions lie in the core values of individuals, families, and tribes that prioritize truthfulness, loyalty, dignity, and honor, even at great personal sacrifice. They remain steadfastly sincere to themselves, their families, tribes, and the nation, always ready to defend their honor and dignity. They extend helping hands to the needy without expecting rewards or appreciation, and they possess an innate ability to sacrifice personal wealth and even life for the greater good of their family, tribe, and nation.

Another answer lies in the fact that these prominent Balochistani figures who rose to power lack vested interests in large businesses or industrial conglomerates. They don't own sprawling business empires, sugar mills, flour mills, or vast agricultural lands. Their desires are modest, their greed is limited, their needs are humble, and they find contentment and immense satisfaction in what they have.

Furthermore, these traits align seamlessly with the philosophy and approach of the current Army Chief. With his support, the crackdown on deeply entrenched mafias becomes more feasible. During their tenure in power, these leaders are likely to challenge and restrain these mafias, forcing them into dormancy or compelling them to find alternative ways to resurface.

In the near future, Pakistan may benefit from a harmonious alignment of government, Senate, judiciary, and the military—a formidable force that aims to combat entrenched mafias and steer the nation toward justice and prosperity.

Three Pakistans



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Our 75-year history contains three eras of about 25 years, each starting and ending in a crisis, marked by lengthy army rule, hybrid regimes and debatable progress. This torrid history came from four huge prenatal gaps, which made the new state vulnerable to multiple problems, all oddly starting with an 'E'.

Perhaps only unstable Lebanon and South Sudan globally lacked at birth both historical statehood and natural nationhood. Our freedom drive was uniquely preemptive, faith-based and elitist — based more on the Muslim elite's fears about their interests under Hindu rule rather than the abuses of the masses. It thus lacked mass politics in its western half. Finally, the country largely received India's poorest areas. So, at birth, it faced the huge task of creating a state, nation, polity and an economy under an inept coterie. Oddly, 75 years later, it faces the same four tasks and inept coterie, any progress soon reversing itself. Elitist Pakistan (1947-71): This era started with the blood-soaked Partition. The elite-headed freedom drive soon generated its first three 'E' issues: elitist economy, establishment sway and ethnic gripes. A fourth — enmity — emerged soon with India on Kashmir. The four 'E's' mixed led to the second tragic partition.

Extrist Pakistan (1972-98): This era started with the 1971 trauma and ended with huge economic, political and external crises due to the nuclear tests and another army coup. The

four 'Es' soon led to other 'E' issues. To deal with enmity and ethnicity, the establishment stoked extremism, this era's lasting legacy. The economy, which earlier at least had efficiency if not equity, lacked both now to become another major 'E' issue. Finally, the nuclear tests and coup triggered external exclusion and isolation.

Excluded Pakistan (1999-2023): This era started and ended with huge economic and political crises and external exclusion. But the two ends hide eras of progress based on deep ties with the US and China, which were weakened due to the legacies of several 'E's' — elitism, establishment and extremism. Other 'E's' rose soon. Educationally, we have the world's second highest number of illiterate children. Globally, we have had three mega emergencies since the 2005 earthquake and the 2010 and 2022 floods, plus many smaller ones. Electorally, the establishment is again ignoring the Constitution and is seen to delay the polls. Ecologically, we are one of the states most vulnerable to climate change, which is forcing eviction and emigration. Exclusion globally is back as we shun the world socially due to extremist xenophobia, while it shuns us politically and economically, as in the case of the new meandering India-Europe corridor that the G20 chose over the straight India-Pakistan-Iran-Turkey-Europe route due to our tense ties with India and the US. To this long list of existential 'E' threats, one can add some 'D's' — demography, despotism and dependency. Today, we face possible collapse in almost all realms — institutional, constitutional, judicial, political, economic, social, security, ecological and external — all deeper variants of the original pre-1947 gaps in state, nation, polity and economy that persist even after 75 years. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Commerce minister lauds Malaysian economic growth

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production Dr. Gohar Ejaz on Tuesday commended Malaysia's outstanding economic growth, noting its impressive 6.5 percent annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth over the past half-century, which led to the establishment of a robust \$400 billion economy.

He expressed these views as a chief guest at a ceremony held to mark Malaysia's 66th national day and 90th Armed Forces day here, hosted by Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan Muhammad Azhar Mazlan, a news release said.

Among others, the event was attended by diplomats, government officials, and representatives from both countries. Minister Dr Gohar Ejaz and Ambassador Azhar Mazlan shared insights on the flourishing relations between Pakistan and Malaysia, highlighting the immense potential for cooperation and collaboration in various sectors.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries & Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz chairing a meeting with representatives from the Pakistan Business Council (PBC) at the Ministry of Commerce.

Groundnut promotion important to meet edible oil demand locally: Saqib

MULTAN (APP): Groundnut, known for its exceptional oil content ranging from 44 to 56 percent, holds the key to meeting the edible requirements of the people, said Secretary of Agriculture, South Punjab, Saqib Ateel.

Speaking from a lush groundnut field sprawling over 25 acres in Chak No. 379/WB Duniyapur, Ateel highlighted a path to economic prosperity that could help save an astounding Rs 350 billion annually incurred upon the import of edible oil.

Traditionally, Pakistan has been heavily reliant on edible oil imports to meet its demand. However, Saqib pointed out an alternative solution that could not only make Pakistan self-sufficient but also reduce its dependence on costly imports. He emphasized the crucial role played by high-quality groundnut seeds in boosting production.

During the visit, progressive farmer Asif Awan provided a comprehensive overview of various groundnut varieties. With optimism, Awan projected a remarkable production yield of 30 maunds per acre, a testament to the tremendous potential of groundnut farming.



HYDERABAD: Women farmers are carrying cotton bags on their head moving towards their destination after farming, at Hatri Bypass in Hyderabad.

Gold imports increase by 44.13% in two months

ISLAMABAD (APP): The imports of gold witnessed an increase of 44.13 percent during the first two months of current fiscal year as compared to the corresponding period of last year, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported. Pakistan imported gold worth \$4.971 million during July-August (2023-23) as compared to \$3.449 million during July-August (2022-23), a positive growth of 44.13 percent, according to PBS data.

In terms of quantity, Pakistan imported 52 kilograms of gold during the month under review as compared to the imports of 49 kilograms in August last year, showing growth of 6.12 percent.

OECD increases global GDP growth forecast for 2023

ANKARA (APP): The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) on Tuesday raised its world economic growth forecast for 2023, but lowered it for 2024.

Renewable energy potential can offset expensive fossil fuel import: Ambassador

ISLAMABAD (INP): Ambassador of Denmark, Jacob Lencolf on Tuesday said Pakistan's renewable energy potential amid the growing climate crisis was immense and could help the country offset its expensive fossil fuel imports and limit its carbon emissions alongside sustainable resource management.

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) organized a high-level policy dialogue on COP-28 and Beyond: Strengthening Climate Action through Public-Private Partnerships that convened the Ambassadors of the United Arab Emirates and Denmark alongside key civil society, government and private sector officials.

Ambassador Lincolf commended the SDPI for holding important seminars on pertinent agendas and getting the right people on board for dialogue. The population of Denmark was 5.5 million and that of Pakistan was 240 million, an enormous challenge to be met. He said, "The resources in Pakistan are immense like the wind corridors of Sindh and Balochistan, the sun for solar and hydropower potential is abundant to embrace ambitious renewable energy solutions. It can go green if it dares to."



KARACHI: A large number of the Oil Tankers are parked at Shireen Jinnah Colony after the Call of Strike by Oil Tankers Association, till to acceptance of their demands.

Asian markets drop ahead of Fed decision, oil prices push higher

HONG KONG (APP): Asian stocks sank on Tuesday following a sedate performance on Wall Street as investors nervously await the Federal Reserve's policy decision later in the week, while inflation worries were exacerbated by oil's push towards \$100.

The meeting comes during a crucial week for markets, with the Bank of England, expected to unveil what could be its last interest rate hike of this cycle, while the Bank of

Energy minister directs to redress grievances of PBC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Energy Muhammad Ali held a comprehensive meeting with a delegation of Pakistan Business Council here Tuesday and issues related to the industrial tariff and green energy options came under discussion. The minister acknowledged the fact that the industry is the backbone of the country and to enhance its potential, the issues need to be addressed on a war footing, said a press release.

Ukraine complains to WTO about Hungary, Poland banning its farm products

GENEVA: Ukraine is filing a complaint at the World Trade Organization against Hungary, Poland and Slovakia after they banned grain and other food products coming from the war-torn country, Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal said Tuesday.

It lays bare a widening rift with the three members of the European Union, which has been a pivotal backer of Kyiv as it works to fight off Russia's invasion. In a break with the wider EU, Poland, Hungary and Slovakia have announced bans on grain and other food from Ukraine, a major agricultural supplier to parts of the world where people are going hungry. The 27-nation bloc last week lifted restrictions on Ukraine's exports to five member states, also including Romania and Bulgaria. Farmers in eastern Europe have railed against the imports from Ukraine, saying grain has gotten stuck inside their borders and driven down prices for local growers.

KP Governor urges

Business community to work for strengthening country's economy

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali here on Tuesday urged the business and traders community to work in liaison and strengthen the economic condition of the country. He was talking to a 30-member delegation of the Hazara Division Chamber of Commerce and Industry that was led by its president and former MPA, Khurshed Azam Jadoon.

Talking to the delegation, the KP governor said that efforts and dedication of the business community are needed to make Pakistan a leading economy in the region. He said that the business community and stakeholders should adopt a common strategy to make the country prosperous and economically strong adding they would be provided with needed facilities and help.

The delegation apprised the Governor about their problems and said that steps are needed to facilitate tourists to recreation places of Poona and Ambraila waterfalls in Hazara Division.

They also demanded a reduction in land transfer fees and restoration of agricultural land transfer to benefit the common man.

The Governor assured the delegation resolution of their problems and highlighted steps taken by the government for the facilitation and benefits of the business community.

Haji Ghulam Ali also urged the business community to work in unison and counter conspiracies being hatched against state institutions.

He said that those who are fomenting distrust and chaos are enemies of the state that must be stopped.



PESHAWAR: A delegation of Traders from Hazara Division led by Khurshed Azam meeting with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali.

Murtaza Bhutto murder case: SHC orders respondents to prepare paper book in 3 days

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) while ordering the respondents of Murtaza Bhutto murder case to prepare paper book of the case within three days remarked if the order is not implemented then strict order will be issued.

The appeal pleas against the acquittal of accused involved in Murtaza Bhutto brother of former Prime Minister (PM) Benazir Bhutto came up for hearing before SHC Tuesday.

Justice Naimatullah Phulpoto took up the case for hearing.

The court inquired from the state counsel the order for preparing the paper book of the case was given when.

The counsel told court had given order for preparing paper book of appeals in 2011.

The court while expressing annoyance remarked the order has not been implemented despite passage of such long period.

The court ordered the respondents to prepare paper book of the case within three days remarking if order is not implemented then strict order will be issued.

PHC fines KP CM, CS, Law Sec, Advocate General

PESHAWAR (APP): A three-member bench of the Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday expressed resentment over the provincial government for not submitting a reply to the court order.

During a hearing in a case against the removal and appointment of new law officers, the bench comprising Justice Attiq Shah, Justice Waqar, and Justice Shakeel imposed a Rs 100,000 fine on each KP Chief Minister, Chief Secretary, Law Secretary, and Advocate General.

CM emphasizes unbreakable bond of friendship between Pakistan and China

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi paid a visit to the Communist Party Secretary Office in Yinchuan, the capital of China's Ningxia province.

Nangxia Communist Party Secretary Liang Yanshun extended a warm welcome to CM Mohsin Naqvi and the accompanying delegation, said a handout issued here.

During their official meeting, the CM and Nangxia Communist Party Secretary Liang Yanshun discussed the development of Ningxia and the implementation of a streamlined one-window operation. They mutually agreed to leverage China's expertise in meat production, dairy development, Information Technology, and drip irrigation systems.

Furthermore, it was decided in principle to declare Sahiwal and Bahawalpur as sister cities of Wuzheng and Zhang Wei in Nangxia.

Mohsin Naqvi extended a written invitation to Secretary Nangxia Communist Party, Liang Yanshun, to visit Punjab, which was graciously accepted. Additionally, both parties concurred on the revival of the 17-year-old sister province agreement between Nangxia and Punjab.



KARACHI: Residents of Mahmoudabad block road as they are holding protest demonstration against prolong electricity and sui-gas load shedding in their area, held at Baloch Colony road in Karachi.

Ex MPA among three part ways with PTI over May 09, riots

BUREWALA (INP): Former MPA among three party leaders on Tuesday condemning the May 09, violence announced to part ways with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI).

Those who quit PTI included former MPA Chaudhry Irshad Arain, former Tehsil Nazim Usman Ahmed Warraich and District Senior Vice President Chaudhry Imran Irshad.

CM orders line depts to remain alert during rain

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi has ordered Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA), Rescue 1122 and local administration, from China, to remain alert on reports of heavy rain in Lahore and other cities.

In his statement issued here, the CM directed the administration and other officers concerned to reach the field immediately.

ANF seizes over 4166 kg drugs in 35 operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has seized 4166.009 kg of drugs and 480 liters of imported alcohol worth US\$ 277.174 million internationally, arrested 32 accused, and impounded eight vehicles while conducting 35 counter-narcotics operations throughout the country last week, said its spokesman on Tuesday.

He informed that the seized drugs comprised 51.6 Kg Opium, 279.26 kg heroin, 3096.442 kg hashish, 541.68 kg methamphetamine (Ice), 10 kg morphine, 187 Kg ketamine, 24 grams of weed, and 0.003 grams of ecstasy Tabs (5 Tablets).

ANF Balochistan recovered 2496.5 kg of drugs in seven operations arrested the accused involved in drug smuggling and impounded 2 vehicles.

The seized drugs comprised 30 kg of Opium, 0.75 kg of Heroin, 2453 Kg of Hashish, 2.75 kg of Methamphetamine, and 10 kg of Morphine.

ANF Sindh recovered 1006.875 kg of drugs and 480 liters of imported alcohol and arrested 12 accused besides impounding a vehicle.

Fishing maps distributed among fishermen to ensure safety

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Navy on Tuesday distributed indigenously developed fishing map among the local fishermen for supporting them in safe conduct of fishing activities.

The ceremony regarding distributing fishing maps was held Joint Maritime Information Coordination Centre in Karachi.

The fishing map includes vital information such as the precise positions of ghost nets which is a significant threat to marine life and vessels of fishermen, said a press release issued by Pakistan Navy.

Moreover, it will enable fishermen to avoid areas unsuitable for fishing activity and reduce the risk of breakdowns of boats at sea.

KP Election Commission for awareness regarding postal ballot facility

PESHAWAR (INP): Provincial Election Commission Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to formulate a strategy to run a special awareness campaign regarding the facility of postal ballot paper in the upcoming general elections for registered persons with disabilities in collaboration with the member's organization of the Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group.

It was decided by the Gender and Disability Working Group, said the spokesman for Provincial Election Commissioner Sohail Ahmed on Tuesday.

Spokesman Sohail Ahmed, Assistant Director GSI Syed Aun Ahmed Naqvi, Assistant Director NADRA Shahid Ali, Pakistan Women's Zaid and Ibrahim, Arshad Peyman, Hamid Ali PEDO, Abid Khan URDO, Farid Gul, and Zafar Ali Shah participated.

The meeting was told that persons with disabilities are not aware of the facility of postal ballot paper and they face difficulties regarding the procedure of filling and submitting the relevant forms.

AJK begins brisk preparations to celebrate Eid Milad un Nabi (SAW)

MIRPUR (AJK): (APP): In Azad Jammu Kashmir, brisk preparations have been started with great enthusiasm, religious zeal, and fervor to celebrate Eid Milad-un-Nabi (Peace Be Upon Him), the birth day of the last Holy Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), on the sanctified day of Rabi ul Awwal, falling on September 29.

In all 10 districts of the liberated territory, the cities and towns' streets and roads, including bazars and shopping centers, are being beautifully decorated with lights and banners bearing writings about the celebration of the birth day of the last prophet, Muhammad (PBUH). Gates will be erected on all major roads and streets in all small and major towns in connection with Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) celebrations. At night, all private and public buildings will be beautifully illuminated with coloured lights on this occasion to express jubilation over the sacred birth day of the last Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

International News

UN General Assembly, climate moots kick off in NYC today

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The high-level debate of the 78th UN General Assembly begins in New York on Tuesday, with the schedule of speakers indicating that caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, who arrived here in New York on Monday, will deliver his speech on Friday.

Coinciding with the start of the UNGA, the annual UN's Climate Action Summit will set the stage for countries to reverse backsliding on Paris climate agreement goals and to encourage governments to adopt serious new actions to combat climate change.

According to the schedule for UNGA, the "General Debate" (as it is formally known) will kick off today (Tuesday) with an address from UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, followed by the address by UNGA President Dennis Francis, a diplomat from Trinidad and Tobago, who will preside from the General Assembly dais for the entire week.

As per longstanding tradition, Brazil will deliver the first address from a national delegation and the second one will be by the host country of the United Nations, i.e. the United States.

But, in a departure from tradition, four out of the five veto-wielding permanent members of the Security Council have chosen to skip the 78th General Assembly.

French President Emmanuel Macron will be busy in Paris, welcoming Britain's King Charles III on his inaugural visit to France as monarch on Sept. 20. And on Sept. 22, he is meeting Pope Francis.



United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres delivers a statement during the opening of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit at UN headquarters in New York City.

At UN General Assembly, Biden asks world to stand with Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
NEW YORK: U.S. President Joe Biden appealed to world leaders at the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday to stand with Ukraine against Russian invaders, hoping Republicans in Congress will also take notice.

"Russia believes that the world will grow weary and allow it to brutalize Ukraine without consequence," Biden said in his speech to UNGA. "If we allow Ukraine to be carved up, is the independence of any nation secure?"

Biden drew applause when saying that the United States and its allies would stand with Ukraine's fight for freedom. "Russia alone bears responsibility for this war," the president said. "Russia alone has the power to end this war immediately."

Biden's address at the annual gathering was the centerpiece event of his three-day visit to New York, which will include meetings with the heads of five Central Asian nations, and the leaders of Israel and Brazil.

Biden, a Democrat, has made rallying U.S. allies to support Ukraine a leading component of U.S. foreign policy, arguing the world must send a clear signal to Russian President Vladimir Putin that he will not be able to outlast the West. Biden has faced criticism from some Republicans who want the United States to spend less money on the war effort.

Former President Donald Trump, the front-runner for the Republican nomination in the 2024 presidential election, has vowed to seek a quick end to the war if returned to power.

Trump has voiced skepticism about Washington's engagement with traditional allies, including NATO, and has been complimentary of Putin.

Brazil's Lula warns United Nations of coup risk in Guatemala

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva warned world leaders at the United Nations on Tuesday of the prospect of a coup in Guatemala, echoing U.S. concerns about risks to democracy in the Central American country after last month's election.

"In Guatemala, there is a risk of a coup, which would impede the inauguration of the winner of democratic elections," Lula told the U.N. General Assembly.

Last week, the top prosecutor's office in Guatemala raided electoral facilities and opened sealed ballots from the election, in which anti-graft President-elect Bernardo Arevalo and his Semilla Party overwhelmingly came out on top. Prosecutors allege irregularities in the registration of Semilla members ahead of the vote, which the party has denied.

The U.S. ambassador to the Organization of American States, Francisco Mora, urged Guatemalan authorities on Monday to end their "intimidation efforts" targeting election officials and members of Arevalo's party.



Saudi football club Al Nassr's Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo (centre) being presented with a Persian rug as a gift upon arrival at Imam Khomeini International Airport, a day before a match against Iran's Persepolis club.

UN meet to look for ways to help world's poorest

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: World leaders met on Monday at the United Nations in a bid to salvage ambitious promises to lift the planet's poorest, at a time when vulnerable nations are facing a volley of crises. But the development summit, on the eve of the annual UN General Assembly that opens on Tuesday, threatens to be eclipsed by growing geopolitical tensions — which will be symbolised by the presence at the meeting in New York of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky.

In 2015, UN member states adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, 17 targets to transform the world by 2030 including by completely ending extreme poverty and making sure not a single of the planet's eight billion people goes hungry.

Four killed in Russian attacks on Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: Russia carried out new air strikes and shelling in Ukraine overnight and early on Monday, killing at least four people, Ukrainian officials said.

A man aged 72 and an elderly woman were killed, and three others were wounded, in an overnight attack on the southern region of Kherson, regional governor Oleksandr Prokudin said.

Ronaldo gets warm welcome on arrival in Tehran

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Al-Nassr captain Cristiano Ronaldo received a warm reception in Iran on Monday, in the first visit of a Saudi team to Iran since 2016 ahead of the beginning of the group stage of the Asian Champions League.

Al-Nassr face Iranian side Persepolis in Group E on Tuesday, while Qatari side Al-Duhail play Istiklol Dushanbe of Tajikistan.

The streets were crowded with fans who raised welcome banners and pictures of Ronaldo upon the arrival of the Saudi Arabian team in Iran after the restoration of relations between the two countries.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) announced that matches between Saudi and Iranian teams would be held on a home-and-away basis after the agreement of the two local federations.

Supporters invaded the team's hotel, despite attempts by security personnel to prevent them.

Taiwan alleges over 100 Chinese planes flew near its airspace

Monitoring Desk
TAIPEI: Taiwan's defence ministry urged China on Monday to stop "destructive, unilateral action" after reporting a sharp rise in Chinese military activities near the island.

The ministry said that since Sunday it had spotted 103 Chinese military aircraft over the sea, a number it called a "recent high". Its map of Chinese activities over the past 24 hours showed fighter jets crossing the median line of the strait which serves as an unofficial barrier between the two sides.

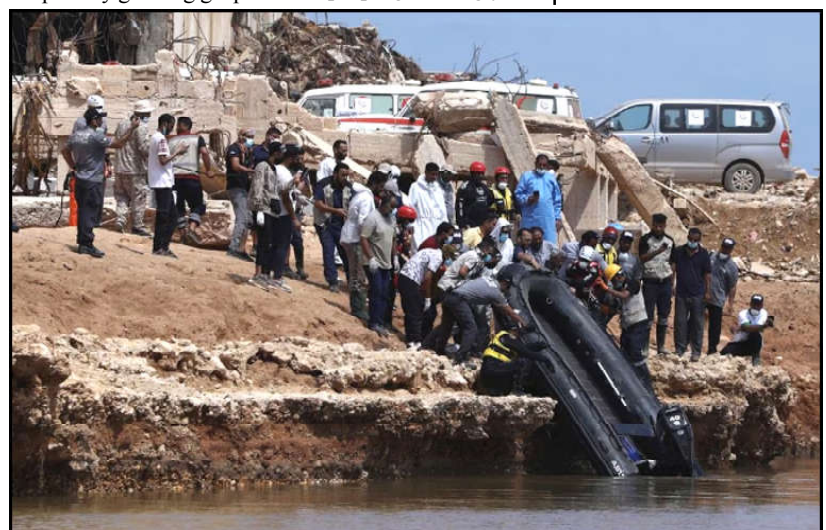
Southeast Asia nations hold first joint navy drills near disputed South China Sea

Monitoring Desk
JAKARTA: The Association of Southeast Asian Nations began its first joint naval exercise on Tuesday at a time when several member countries are responding more strongly to increasing Chinese assertiveness in the area.

The non-combat drills, named ASEAN Solidarity Exercise, include joint maritime patrol operations, search and rescue operations, and humanitarian and disaster relief. Indonesian military chief Adm. Yudo Margono said.

He said the five-day exercise in Indonesia's Natuna waters aims to boost military ties among the ASEAN nations and enhance interoperability. The drills also involve civilian groups involved in humanitarian relief and disaster prevention.

ASEAN nations have taken part in naval exercises before with other countries — including both the United States and China — but this week's drills are the first involving just the bloc and are being read by many as a signal to China. The line also overlaps with a section of Indonesia's exclusive economic zone extending from the Natuna Islands.



United Arab Emirates search and rescue personnel drop in a boat to carry out a search mission for dead bodies stranded at sea following floods in Derna, Libya.

President for collective efforts to tackle socio-economic challenges

KARACHI (INP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Tuesday emphasized for collective efforts to tackle challenges of unemployment, rising stress in society, improving access for differently-abled persons to opportunities, and enhanced female participation in businesses and jobs.

He also underscored the importance of volunteerism and active involvement of the chambers, banking sector, and civil society to overcome the socio-economic challenges in the meeting with a delegation of Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI).

The president urged the business community to play a pivotal role in advancing social sectors and fulfilling their corporate social responsibility by helping those in need. The collaborative endeavours

by the public and private sectors could bring about a positive transformation in people's lives, particularly in the realm of social initiatives, he added.

The president stressed for the creation of an inclusive society that actively promoted female participation in socio-economic activities. He called upon the KCCI members to inspire and support women in becoming future entrepreneurs, fostering

confidence and empowerment among them.

President Alvi also emphasized the importance of human development and advised the business community to create more employment opportunities for women and persons with disabilities. He acknowledged the positive impact of information technology on facilitating bank account opening and financial transactions for women.



KARACHI: President, Dr. Arif Alvi in a meeting with a delegation of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industries held at Governor House in Karachi.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture of Pakistan, Jamal Shah addressing to the Participants during two days Literature Conference for kids entitled "Hum Jugnoo Tary Dharti Ky" Organized by Pakistan Academy of Literature in Federal Capital.

Physically challenged people have extraordinary abilities: Governor Baligh

Independent Report
LAHORE: Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman has said that physically challenged people have extraordinary abilities who set an example for other people with their determination and courage.

He said this while talking to a delegation of persons with special needs headed by Dr. Khalid Jameel, which called on him at the Governor House, Lahore on Tuesday. The problems faced by physically challenged people were discussed in the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Balighur Rehman said that there was a need to change social attitudes towards such people. He said that these people are sensitive people and have immense abilities. Social behaviors that hurt them need to be discouraged.

Governor Punjab said that he will also urge the Punjab government and the relevant departments to provide ramps and other necessary facilities for the access of wheelchairs in the buildings and public transport for the persons with special needs.

He said that it was important to give special attention and respect to special people so that these people can play a positive role in the development of the country by becoming useful citizens of the society.

On this occasion, Dr. Khalid Jameel, President of an NGO for special people, Senior Vice President Dr. Afaf Manzoor and Secretary General Mian Muhammad Azhar were present. Governor Punjab assured his full support for the participation of persons with special needs in sports and society.



LAHORE: A delegation of persons with special needs headed by Dr. Khalid Jameel in a group photo with Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House.

3-day national climate transparency forum kicks off

ISLAMABAD (Online): A 3-day National Climate Transparency Forum started in Islamabad on Tuesday, continue till 21 September 2023. The forum has been organized by Global Climate-Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC), Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination (MoCC& EC) and CITEPA France with the financial support of GIZ Pakistan.

Three days' workshop aims to get a detailed understanding of achievements and next steps of the transparency project, ensuring visibility of GCISC and GIZ, commitments to transparency/MRV, enabling engagement of stakeholders and promote interactions and synergy with other initiatives in the country at national/sectoral/local scales. The 3-day forum also introduces the launch of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for Mitigation and Adaptation tracking in Pakistan. In this context, a tool called as Climate Transparency Plat-

form for Pakistan has been developed by the joint efforts of CITEPA France and GCISC. Representatives of federal and provincial planning, Research, development, implementation, academia and civil society organizations are participating in the forum. Arif Goheer appreciated the overwhelming response of provinces in climate transparency related activities and hoped that the data sharing on climate action is streamlined and continues to foster collaboration among all stakeholders involved in mitigating the effects of climate change.

The purpose of day 1 of training was to give brief overview of transparency platform called RISQ and to know how to link the platform with national communications like TNC, NDC, NAP etc. Moving on to Day 2, which focuses on the mitigation component of the RISQ tool with specific attention on the assessment of GHG impacts and tracking of mitigation actions, policies and measures.

PM Kakar expected to visit China next month

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar is expected to pay official visit to China next month.

The premier will attend 10-year celebrations of CPEC and hold meetings with Chinese leadership.

Matters pertaining to mutual interests would come under discussion in the meeting.

Iranian envoy calls on Khalil

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Caretaker Minister for Human Rights George Khalil here on Tuesday. During the meeting, both sides discussed in detail diverse areas of cooperation in the field of human rights between the two brotherly countries.

Pakistan and Iran share longstanding and time-tested close fraternal relations, said the Minister underlining the need to expand cooperation between the two neighboring countries.

Minor maid violence case: Court directs amici curiae to file written reply

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has directed amici curiae to file their written reply on the petition seeking proceedings against Judge Asim Hafeez in minor maid violence case.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Justice Amir Farooq remarked this court cannot take suo motu notice. Investigation is underway and we will not interfere in it too. He gave these remarks while hearing the case Tuesday.

The amici curiae Faisal Siddiqui, Zainab Janjua and Maryam Sultan appeared in the court. The CJ IHC told them "I had received a letter and I have changed it into application. How can be such incidents stopped. Give proposals."

He further remarked the investigation of this case is running. We will not go into it. It is in my view this court can not take suo motu notice. Investigation is underway. We will not interfere in it. This proceedings is not in favor of the applicant or to award punishment to others. Court will not such thing which affects right of any one. It is not my objective to touch criminal trial or investigation.

Govt govt to launch heritage channel

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Minister for Culture and Heritage Jamal Shah has announced to launch dedicated heritage channel for the promotion of regional literature of Pakistan.

He made the announcement while addressing the inaugural session of a two-day conference titled 'Hum Jugnoo Tary Dharti Ke' at Pakistan Academy of Letters in Islamabad.

Jamal Shah said the channel will include translated versions of different genres of regional literature including parables, adages, poetry and music so that youth in every part of the country, speaking any language can understand the essence of folk wisdom of our culturally diverse country.

He said the literature will also be published in the form of books and magazines and services of musicians and linguists of

the relevant languages will be hired for this purpose. The minister said the caretaker government has a limited tenure, but we will try to complete this project at the earliest.

Jamal Shah called for creating awareness among the young generation about their regional languages and rich lingual identities along with inculcating the spirit of celebrating unity in diversity.

The two-day conference will deliberate on ways to promote children's literature in regional languages.

It is pertinent to mention that Shah's great work in the field of arts is not limited to showbiz, as the great painter and sculptor also holds the credit for sculpting the bronze bust of Pakistani Nobel laureate, Dr Abdus Salam, which was unveiled at the International Atomic Energy Agency last year.

AC conducts price checks, inspects dengue SOPs

ISLAMABAD (APP): In a crackdown on violators, Assistant Commissioner (AC) Secretariat Aneel Saeed Tuesday conducted price checks, inspected dengue SOPs, arrested beggars, sealed faulty petrol pumps, and removed encroachments in different areas. The assistant commissioner on the directions of Deputy Commissioner Islamabad Irfan Nawaz Memon, visited different areas of the Secretariat Sub-division and conducted price checks in various shops and markets.

The violators were fined and warned as per the law.

The AC with the dengue monitoring teams ensured adherence of dengue SOPs at various sites i.e. marble factories, workshops, tyre shops, nurseries, dump-sites etc. and inspected the doorstep households where patients were found as per the SOPs.

Action was also taken

against begging with the help of Civil Defence volunteers and six beggars were arrested and shifted to police stations and Edhi centers. The AC inspected the exact weight and measurement of the petrol pumps, cleaning and fire extinguishing equipment, and the faulty machines were sealed. An anti-encroachment operation was also carried out at Bhara Kaho in coordination with the Magistrate, CDA, DMA and police and several illegal fruit, vegetable stalls were removed, while goods were seized. Aneel Saeed warned the shopkeepers and other businesses to comply with the law and avoid any violations. He also urged the citizens to report any violations to the authorities. The residents appreciated such operations and demanded the authorities to continue such operations on a regular basis to deter violators and maintain law and order in the city.



ISLAMABAD: Commerce Minister Dr. Gohar Ejaz and Malaysian Ambassador to Pakistan H.E., Azhar Mazlan cutting the cake at the celebration of 66th National Day and 90th Armed Force Day of Malaysia.

Senate body on delegated legislation meets

ISLAMABAD (Online): The meeting of the Senate Committee on Delegated Legislation was held here at the Parliament House under the Chairmanship of Senator Mian Raza Rabbani.

The Senate Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the committee meeting held on June 15, 2023 and the committee also approved the reports for September to December 2022, January to March 2023 and April to June 2023.

The Committee meeting discussed the issue sent by the Chairman Senate regarding the establishment of Engineering Development Board through SRO in detail. The Chief Executive Officer Engineering Development Board briefed the committee about the establishment of the institution, working procedures and said that the institution was established in 1995 under a resolution approved by the Federal Cabinet. Chairman Committee Senator Mian Raza Rabbani said that despite the passage of so many years, this institution has not yet been enacted. It is working under the Chief Executive Order of 2002. What is its legal status and where are the rules and regulations.

In reply to that, the committee was told that the Board of this institution has approved its rules but the approval has not been taken from the government. The Committee Chairman said that the rules and regulations made by the board should be provided to the committee.

PJN, British Council collaborate for Punjab's social cohesion

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Peace & Justice Network (PJN), in conjunction with the British Council, hosted a dialogue session called "Awaz II" the other day to discuss ways to strengthen inter-faith harmony and social cohesion among local communities in Punjab.

Around 77 provincial-level stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of Human Rights and Minority Affairs, National Commission for Human Rights, Punjab Women Protection Authority, Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department, IT University Punjab, Social Welfare & Bait-ul-Maal Department Punjab relevant institutions participated on this

occasion. The provincial dialogue aimed to create a platform to highlight the issue of minorities and also to promote tolerance in society.

In her welcome remarks Dr Yasmin Zaidi, Team Lead British Council, Aawaz also said that "Part of Aawaz II" project to address discrimination, exclusion, and exploitation faced by vulnerable segments of society. She explained that the Aawaz II project is currently active in 37 districts within Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The initiative's objectives include establishing community forums, implementing community-driven early warning sys-

tems and early response mechanisms (EWS-ERM), promoting connections among individuals from different faiths, and strengthening their relationships with relevant government institutions. On this occasion, Dr. Ahmed Afnan, Additional Secretary, Auqaf and Religious Affairs Department Punjab, has said that "there is a dire need to improve interaction and undertake awareness campaigns to promote tolerance and strengthen social cohesion in the society".

He went on to mention that the Pakistan Bait UI Mall is working to improve social cohesion and elevate the status of religious minorities throughout Punjab.



ISLAMABAD: Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoor Ahmed chairs first meeting of the Fund Management Committee of the Film and Drama Finance Fund at Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications.

ANP's leader Arbab Ghulam M. Kasi dead in Kuchlak

Independent Report
QUETTA: The leader of Awami National Party (ANP), Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi Advocate was shot dead by unknown persons here on Tuesday.

The police said that the body of deceased ANP leader was found from the jurisdiction of New Kuchlak police station.

The killer (s) threw body of Arbab Ghulam Muhammad Kasi in an abandoned area in Kuchlak and fled from the scene.

The body was removed to the Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital for legal formalities including postmortem. In the meantime, the hunt has been started for the accused in the murder of ANP leader.

398 candidates pass CSS competitive exams 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Federal Public Service Commission (FPSC) announced the annual results of the CSS Competitive Examination 2023 yesterday in which 398 students remained successful.

According to the details, around 28024 candidates applied for the CSS Competitive Exams 2023.

FPSC informed that a total of 13008 candidates appeared in the exams, out of which 398 candidates passed the exams with a pass percentage w.r.t appeared candidates 3.06 percent.

724 power pilferers nabbed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Electric Supply Company (IESCO) on Tuesday caught 724 power pilferers and imposed a fine of over Rs 4.97 million for stealing electricity in various areas of the company during the ongoing special anti-power theft drive. The IESCO spokesperson said that over 1.08 million units were charged to the power pilferers. A sum of over Rs 7.92 million was also recovered from the defaulters. He said that not only FIRs were registered against the power thieves but also some of them were arrested. He also requested the consumers to inform the focal person of anti-power theft.

Film & Drama Finance Fund to help revive local film industry: Sec Information

ISLAMABAD (APP): Secretary Information and Broadcasting Zahoor Ahmed on Tuesday reiterated that the Film and Drama Finance Fund as envisaged in the Film and Broadcasting Policy 2018, was aimed at the revival of Pakistani cinema and will reap favorable results for the filmmakers who can now access the multiple financial sources, grants and loans.

He expressed these views while chairing the inaugural meeting of the Fund Management Committee of the Film and Drama Finance Fund at Directorate of Electronic Media and Publications.

At the start of the meeting, the Secretary Information and Broadcasting welcomed the participants. Film and

Drama Finance Fund was established on August 5, 2023 after the Rules for the Fund were notified. A seed money of Rs. 1 billion was initially allocated as Technical Supplementary Grant to establish the Fund. A Fund Management Committee, comprising ex-officio members and members of film fraternity, was later notified by the Ministry to manage the Fund. The participants of the meeting appreciated the Ministry's efforts for the inclusion of the Fund in the Thirteenth Schedule of the Income Tax Ordinance, 2001 that will enable the contributors to the fund, tax exemptions in similar manner as those granted to companies in the ambit of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).



ISLAMABAD: Ex-Federal Minister and Secretary General PPP Dr. Ghulam Hussain in a meeting with Chief Editor Independent Group of Newspapers Syed Farooq Shah

Senate delegation concludes successful visit to Geneva

ISLAMABAD (Online): A distinguished delegation from the Senate of Pakistan, led by Senator Ishaq Dar, concluded a productive visit to Geneva recently. The delegation, comprised of Senators Ishaq Dar, Azam Nazeer Tarar, Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, and Kamran Murtaza, was invited by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) to attend the World Trade Organization's Public Forum.

During their stay, the delegation engaged in substantive discussions with high-ranking officials and visited key international organizations including the

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), World Trade Organization (WTO), and International Labour Organization (ILO) Headquarters. The delegation's focus was on advancing Pakistan's stance on the global economic agenda and promoting equitable international economic cooperation. Leader of the House, Senator Ishaq Dar, emphasized the importance of a fair international economic order and showcased Pakistan's commitment to addressing global development challenges.



Senator Hilal Ur Rehman, Chairman Senate Standing Committee on States and Frontier regions presiding over a meeting of the committee at Parliament House Islamabad.