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COAS urges peaceful resolution of Kashmir dispute aligned with UNSC resolutions

Gen Munir says Pakistan aspires to create region where peace prevails

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir has urged the United Nations to enable Peacekeeping Missions to be more effective in addressing the complex threats while assuring the safety and security of the Peacekeepers.

He was addressing a preparatory meet as the chief guest, held as a precursor to the UN Peacekeeping Ministerial Meeting here from August 30-31.

Co-hosted by Pakistan and Japan on the theme of the Safety and Security of Peacekeepers the meet was attended by delegates from different countries, senior officials from UN and members of the diplomatic community in Islamabad.

In his remarks, the army chief commended the role of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and highlighted increasing challenges and unprecedented levels of threats being faced by Peacekeepers.

The army chief further highlighted that Pakistan aspired to create a region where peace prevailed and trade, transit and investment generated prosperity for all the states of South, West and Central Asia.

He also called on Security Council and the UN Secretary General for peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in accordance with the Security Council Resolutions and the

wishes of Kashmiri people.

Earlier, Under Secretary General for Department of Peace Operations thanked Pakistan for hosting the conference and making invaluable contributions for global peace.

Addressing the participants, Interim Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani recalled Pakistan's longstanding commitment to UN peacekeeping, spanning over six decades, as a tangible manifestation of its contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security.

He paid tributes to the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives in the noble cause of peacekeeping, including 171 Pakistanis.



Chief of the Army Staff, General Asim Munir addressing participant of a meeting held to review the preparations regarding the ministerial meeting of the United Nations peacekeeping mission.

Kakar says:

SIFC to attract around \$70b foreign investment in 3-5 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday said that an estimated foreign investment of US\$60 to \$70 billion was expected in the next three to five years under the government's new initiative of Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Besides, he said the government had also received pledges and promises of another similar amount of investment.

"Now, we have to design and submit our projects as there is a huge appetite to invest in the country", he said while talking to senior journalists and news anchors here.

Replying to a question, the prime minister said the government was considering various options to provide relief to the people.

Citing the example of

the \$700 billion worth of Reko Dik gold and copper reserves, the prime minister said the country had huge potential of natural resources that would change fate of the people of Pakistan. "We took the initiative of SIFC to realize this potential and we are going towards the right direction so far as the scientific methods and financial models are concerned," he remarked.

He said the SIFC was the whole of the government project and there was no hidden in it. "This is a transparent intervention that has already been initiated and has the overall potential of \$5 to \$6 trillion. The prime minister highlighted that Pakistan had huge land that could be used for agriculture purpose and could serve half of the Asian population's food requirements.

He added that the country had also enough water to irrigate the barren land across the country.

Likewise, he said IT, tourism and defence production had also huge potential that would be tapped for socio-economic development of the country. PM Kakar maintained that although the core responsibility of the caretaker government was to facilitate elections across the country, in the meantime it would also try to improve the taxation mechanism and address other economic challenges.

Replying to another query, the prime minister said economic migration was not a new phenomenon and people were leaving the country for a better future and they would also contribute to Pakistan's economy in future.

Interior Minister reiterates resolve for elimination of terrorism from country

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Interior Minister Senator Sarfraz Bugti Friday while reiterating the resolve for the elimination of terrorism from the country said that all possible measures would be taken for maintaining peace to achieve the goals of development and prosperity of the nation.

The minister, while addressing the passing out Ceremony of Pakistan Coast Guard's 43rd Basic Recruit Training Course

here, said that valiant nations face difficult situations gallantly and Pakistani nation's unwavering resolve against violence and terrorism could not be shattered. "Terrorists wanted to impose their extremist ideology on 240 million people of Pakistan by violence and acts of intimidation but we will not surrender and encounter all forms and manifestations of violence with courage and unity," he vowed and urged that the entire nation should

demonstrate unity in the war against terrorism and bust the nefarious designs of anti-Pakistan forces. Sarfraz Bugti expressing condolence to the families of Jawans of the Pakistan Army who embraced martyrdom in the line of duty said, "The entire nation is proud of unmatched sacrifices of valiant armed forces and law enforcement agencies for the safe, secure, and prosperous future of Pakistan."

"Sacrifices rendered by the Pakistan Army, para-military forces, Police, Levies, and people of Pakistan in the war against terrorism will be remembered forever," he maintained. The interior minister said, "The government envisages Balochistan as the future of Pakistan and a peaceful Balochistan is a beacon of hope for strong Pakistan as this vast province was bestowed with precious natural resources and could attain the status of the jugular vein in the economy of the country."



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting regarding smuggling control at border areas.

President approves reconstitution of NEC

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Friday approved reconstitution of the National Economic Council (NEC)-a constitutional entity responsible for evaluating the country's economic condition and devising strategies to promote equitable development and regional balance.

The president approved the reconstitution of the 13-member body by exercising Article 156 of the Constitution.

The Council would be led by Prime Minister with chief ministers of all the provinces and representatives of caretaker governments of the federal government and the provincial

governments as its members. According to a statement issued by the President House press wing, caretaker minister for power, industry, commerce and investment S.M. Tanvir would be the member of the Council from Punjab province, minister for finance, revenue, planning and development Muhammad Yunus Dhagha would be member of NEC from Sindh province.

Similarly minister for finance, excise, taxation and narcotics Ahmed Rasool Bangash would be member of the Council from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and minister for finance and revenue Amjad Rasheed from Balochistan.

Geelani's anniversary: Pak reaffirms support to people of Kashmir

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan on Friday, while paying rich tribute to the life-long dedication of great Kashmiri leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani for justice and freedom, reaffirmed its support to the people of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (IIOJK).

Foreign Office Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, in her weekly press briefing, told the media that Syed Ali Shah Geelani was a true voice and face of the Kashmiris' struggle for their

rights and freedom.

"Today is the second death anniversary of the iconic Kashmiri leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani. He breathed his last in a long-drawn house arrest on 01 September 2021. In a horrific act, his dead body was snatched by the Indian occupation forces from his family, and hurriedly buried in a graveyard in the absence of his family and friends. His family and friends were not allowed to pay their final respects or bury him in a graveyard of his choice."

Countdown to Elections: ECP advances delimitation deadline to November 30

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) has moved up the deadline for final release of constituency delimitation from December 14 to November 30, with the aim of expediting the scheduling of general elections.

The ECP spokesperson stated that the time needed for constituency delimitation had been shortened to expedite this crucial task.

The ECP confirmed its intention to unveil the election schedule once the constituency delimitation process was completed.

FM, Turkish envoy discuss bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani Friday here held a meeting with Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Paçacı and discussed matters of mutual interest.

They reviewed Pakistan-Turkiye ties and reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

They expressed satisfaction at the convergence of views on all major regional and global issues.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti distributing awards during the passing out ceremony of Basic Recruit Course of Pakistan Coast Guard.

Evidence collected through int'l legal help remained not acceptable after NAB amendment: CJP

ISLAMABAD (Online): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked evidence collected through international legal help remained not acceptable after NAB amendment.

CJP gave these remarks while presiding over 3-member bench of Supreme Court (SC) during hearing of Chairman PTI petition against NAB amendment Friday.

Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah are the part of this bench.

During the hearing of the case CJP asked Harris

that he wanted to ask Makhdom Ali Khan a question

He observed we saw a thing in amendment law a day before. The status of evidence collected through Mutual Legal Co operation (MLC) had been eliminated. Now NAB itself will have to seek legal services which will cost dearly.

CJP remarked you had said a day before that reports of properties have come from foreign countries in addition to MLA. The evidence received through this source are not acceptable as per law. You were

to fight on these things in parliament but you left and went away.

Justice Mansoor Ali Shah while addressing PTI counsel remarked, were you to resign from seat you would have vacated it for some one else.

Khawaja Harris said resign was given from seat which was not accepted. The clause related to assets is there in section 9 of NAB. It has been defined as corruption in section 9.

The CJP remarked what was the value of any asset in the past. This can be speculated.

During PM visit to Kenya matter of journalist Arshad will also be taken up: FO

ISLAMABAD (Online): Pakistan will not accept any court decision which prolongs Indian illegal occupation of Kashmir.

"Pakistan wants

Kashmir issue be resolved as per aspirations of Kashmiris and UN resolutions. We are concerned over sponsoring terrorism in Pakistan by India. There is no substance in the reports that Pakistan is supplying arms to Ukraine. Perpetrators of Jaranwala incident will soon be brought to justice. Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwar ul Haq Kakar will

visit Kenya from September 4 to 6", this was said by Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch in her weekly press briefing here Friday.

She held today is second martyrdom anniversary of veteran Kashmiri leader Ali Gilani. He was kept under detention for several years. He loved enormously Kashmir and Pakistan. His courage and valor are beacon light for youths.

Resolution of Kashmir issue as per aspirations of Kashmiris and UN resolutions will be acceptable.

Petroleum dealers threaten nationwide strike

KARACHI (INP): Petroleum dealers in Pakistan have issued a warning to close down filling stations across the country in protest of a non-increase in their profit margins.

The decision comes after the government failed to honour its commitment of increasing their profit margins, leaving them dissatisfied with the current situation.

In a statement, Pakistan Petroleum Dealers Association (PPDA) Chairman Abdul Sami Khan expressed frustration over the government's inability to raise their profit margin, saying that a deadline of September 1 has ended.

Madad Ali Sindhi says: Federal Education Ministry to take steps for improvement of quality education

KARACHI (APP): Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi on Friday said Pakistan can be made a developed nation only by improving the quality of education and despite the limited powers of the federal Ministry of Education, concrete steps would be taken in that regard.

He said this while addressing a national seminar titled "Hassanally Effendi: Light of change" on the occasion of the 139th Foundation Day of SMIU celebrated here at Sindh Madressatul Islam University.

Federal Minister said people who are torchbearers for the nation are remembered in history and the name of Hassanally Effendi was on the top of the list among those who had worked in the field of education. Effendi played a role in the promotion of

education in Sindh as British rulers did nothing in the field of education here in Sindh. Madad Sindhi said and added that after Hassanally other prominent personalities like Sayed Allahdo Shah, Dia Ram Gido Mal, Mir Ghulam Muhammad Talpur, Noor Muhammad Advocate, two brothers from Shikapur Seth Seetal Das and Seeta Ram, Nawal Rai Hiranand and others also played their part by founding reputable educational institutions that had provided education opportunities for the people of Sindh.

The Minister called upon the Vice Chancellor Dr Mujeeb Sahral to arrange visits of the students of this varsity to the grave of Hassanally Effendi in Hyderabad so that the new generation could know about the resting place of the founding father of this great education institute.



ISLAMABAD: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Muhammad Anjad Khan Niazi exchanging views with Secretary Defence, Lieutenant General (R) Hamood uz Zaman Khan at Naval Headquarter.

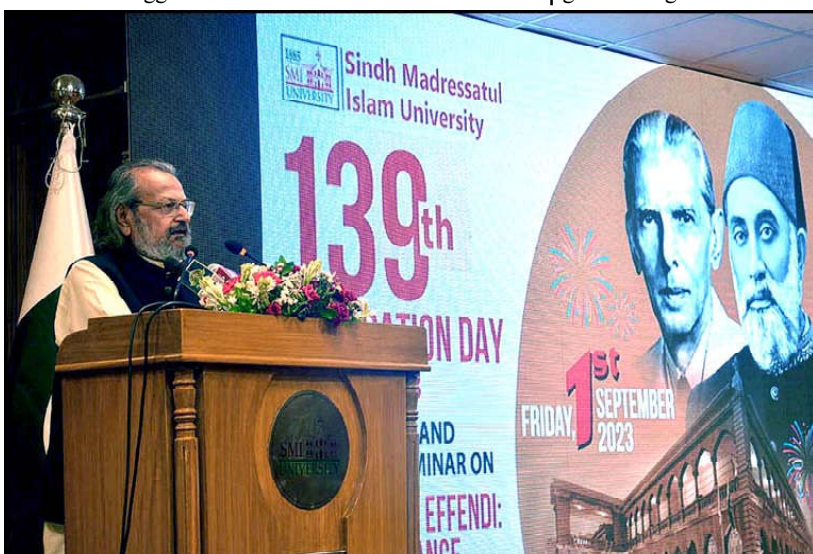
CPLC, police coordinated communication vital to organize crime data: IGP

KARACHI (APP): Inspector General of Police (IGP) Sindh Rifat Mukhtar on Friday stressed the need for coordinated communication between CPLC and police to organize crime-related data.

The IGP during his visit to the Citizen Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) office in Governor House lauded the CPLC for arranging data related to car,

motorcycle, mobile phone snatching/theft, murder, robbery, extortion, kidnapping for ransom, honey trap, and crimes of other nature.

On the occasion, CPLC Chief Zubair Habib welcomed the IGP Sindh and briefed him about the functioning of various departments established at the CPLC office and their operations.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi addressing the Seminar on 139th Foundation Day of Sindh Madressatul Islam University.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Continuous decline

The bloodbath at the stock market on Thursday is just another grim reminder of all that is wrong with the economy. The fundamentals continue to worsen — faster than before — as the country hurtles towards yet another financial disaster amid political uncertainty.

The fresh losses suffered by the stock market over the last few days are just one symptom of declining economic conditions exacerbated by electoral uncertainty. The KSE-100 Index is said by market watchers to have lost almost 1,250 points over concerns of another potential hike in interest rates because of changing expectations regarding inflation as the rupee depreciates and power rates surge.

The already 'fragile' investor sentiment also took a hit after the caretaker finance minister warned of a further hike in electricity and fuel rates, and asserted that the government did not have the fiscal space for subsidies.

During her appearance before a Senate panel on Wednesday, she said there was little choice but to adhere to the IMF programme. Could the stock market bloodbath have been avoided had she not spoken the truth? Experts familiar with the state of the economy are not convinced.

Likewise, the exchange rate is again sliding after a brief respite following the approval of the new \$3bn short-term bailout loan from the IMF. The rupee is under pressure due to the surging import bill, the international rise of the dollar, and the interbank market endlessly chasing the open market rate of the latter currency to keep the gap below 1.25pc to meet a key IMF goal.

The rupee has lost nearly 26pc of its value since the start of 2023. Again, could turbulence in the foreign exchange market have been prevented had the IMF not imposed its condition to narrow the gap between the interbank and open markets? Not without letting the gap between the two markets widen to an unsustainable level.

Investors have been closely monitoring the country's balance-of-payments position because the next review by the IMF will not happen for a few months, and there is not much clarity over the planned investments from the Gulf nations. That means foreign capital inflows will remain subdued, at least over the next several months, which would prolong the pressure on the rupee.

The main question is: can the caretakers stop the economic decline? With their limited mandate and powers, it looks unlikely. The current state of the economy demands tough decisions that a temporary set-up is not capable of making.

The rupee will keep shedding value, inflation will remain elevated, and stocks will continue to suffer mounting losses unless the prevailing election uncertainty ends, and a stable new elected government takes over with the mandate to take difficult decisions. Meanwhile, we continue our journey towards a bigger economic disaster.

Torching churches



Jan-e-Alam Khaki

There is great anguish felt by many people in Pakistan regarding the ugly incident at Jaranwala. As was reported, a mob torched several churches, ransacked Christian homes and vandalised a graveyard in this area. The apparent provocation was alleged blasphemy committed by a Christian. This provided an excuse to local preachers to incite people and unleash a reign of terror on churches and the homes of this particular faith community, whose contributions, particularly in the field of education, are immense. Many leaders in our country feel proud of graduating from schools run by the Christian community.

It may be noted that all such events often start with rumours. Somebody sees or pretends to have seen a person, even an illiterate person, desecrate a page or a few verses or made some reprehensible statement about Muslim holy personalities or beliefs. These rumours are spread to create a big fuss and then, religious leaders in the mohalla kindle the fire by making announcements on loudspeakers to invite people to 'punish' the 'guilty'.

One may ask what advice the Quran gives about addressing rumours. "If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth, lest ye harm people unwittingly, and afterwards become full of repentance for what ye have done" (49:6), says the Holy Book.

If someone leaves a couple of torn pages at someone's door, and then

raises a hue and cry that this person has abused the Quran, should Muslims punish this person or burn down his house?

Let us consider yet another verse, which again refers to rumour-spreading and gives a 'policy statement' — to use a modern term — or a set of 'SOPs' when it comes to news (or fake news) relating to public safety. It says: "When there comes to them some matter concerning (public) safety or fear, they divulge it. If they had only referred it to the Messenger [PBUH], or to those charged with authority among them, the proper investigators would have tested it from them (direct). Were it not for the Grace and Mercy of Allah unto you, all but a few of you would have followed Satan" (4:83).

See how the Quran deals with a major problem in the context of pre-modern Arabia! Mischief-mongering has long been part and parcel of human society, and the revelation rightly addresses it in the most common-sense way.

The government can insist on making such Quranic verses key policy guidelines while tackling such events. Today, fake news has become such a nuisance that many, unfortunately, even profit from deliberately spreading it. First, the Quran advises not to create faasad (corruption) in the world with excuses. Second, even if news or a rumour reaches someone, they should not jump to conclusions, but investigate the allegations through those who are responsible for such things.

Just imagine if a rumour like the one in Jaranwala proves to be false, what benefit would the alleged perpetrator get by doing such a senseless thing, unless there is an agenda behind it? Some people do such things to make a statement in a certain sensational way because they

have an agenda, such as promoting Islamophobia. But we now have a new twist to the story. The Punjab police chief says that a "network of hostile intelligence agencies" was allegedly involved in the recent incidents of blasphemy across the country. Does it change the consequences we have already faced in terms of loss — both material loss, and more importantly, the loss of trust between communities? Even if the news is correct, does it change the substance of the event?

Reflecting on these human instincts, the Quran says: "Did not Allah check one set of people by means of another, there would surely have been pulled down monasteries, churches, synagogues, and mosques, in which the name of Allah is commemorated in abundant measure." (22:40).

Other than what many learned authors have proposed where long-term suggestions go, I, for one, argue that these things cannot be dealt with by only post-facto actions, but through sustained pre-emptive actions; through civic engagement that teaches humanism, pluralism and cosmopolitanism. We need to treat all as equal citizens, worthy of respect. This may be done through re-education, both public and formal, apart from legal measures. Re-education, because our current approach to education — both secular and religious — encourages an exclusive rather than inclusive approach. Let us show practically that 'Islam is a peaceful religion'.

In a Muslim-majority society like ours, let us demonstrate people are safe from the harm of our hands and tongues, as our Prophet (PBUH) expected from his faithful followers. Let us say "Assalam Alaikum" (peace be upon you) to all with the heart, not from the lips as a mere ritual! -- Courtesy Dawn

Who runs Pakistan?



Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

When caretaker finance minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar said that the 'interim' government wasn't empowered to provide meaningful relief to the working masses ravaged by exorbitant electricity bills, she inadvertently acknowledged some truths about who runs Pakistan.

Ours is one of the mostopaquely governed countries in the world. But present circumstances have clarified there is no democratic 'transition' happening here. Only by clearly naming the hydra-headed monster that rules us do we provide ourselves an opportunity to turn popular rage into something resembling a mass movement for change. The establishment — the military establishment is the ultimate arbiter of power in Pakistan. The way in which the PDM regime was propped up, Imran Khan and PTI cut to size, the continuing impunity over enforced disappearances, the criminalisation of independent dissenting voices (like Ali Wazir and Imaan Mazari) and the mockery made of the Constitution during and after the formation of the caretaker government illuminates who pulls the strings.

But the establishment is not a monolith. There is substantial factional struggle for power and resources within it, and this includes elements in the media, judiciary and mainstream political parties. Finally, and arguably most importantly, the establishment's corporate

footprint is now so large that millions are consciously or otherwise part of its economic empire, which include border trade, land/ resource grabs, and business ventures in sectors as diverse as real estate and fertiliser. IMF and bilateral donors: Dr Akhtar let the proverbial cat out of the bag when she said that the caretakers' primary task is to ensure that the IMF's most recent list of conditionalities is implemented. Unfortunately, too many 'experts' insist that the IMF and other donors are wise and the brown sahibs who directly occupy formal seats of government are exclusively responsible for our economic crisis.

But even in the power sector's case, the evidence is clear: the IMF and World Bank foisted the same IPPs on the country in the 1990s which suck dollars from the exchequer to this day. And, of course, the IMF has no qualms about jacking up electricity prices on the masses. Our own rich and powerful are certainly part of the problem because they refuse to pay direct tax on their incomes, but donors are far from blameless for the trials and tribulations of Pakistanis. Next is the widely expected hike which will take the price of petrol beyond Rs300.

Business-landed power: From real estate moguls to sugar cartels to construction companies, Pakistani business elites are amongst the most insular and self-interested anywhere. Gone are the days that our businessmen thought of themselves as contributing to a larger project of economic independence from global elites. Today, the vast majority of business segments choose to become subcontractors of MNCs, destroy nature and dispossess the poor, and/or favour unregulated flows of capital in and out of the country to make a buck.

Meanwhile in rural Pakistan, landed classes remain deeply entrenched. They control thanas, katcheris and patwaris, deploy patriarchal violence and manipulate poll outcomes. Finally, big and even medium trader-merchant segments remain power players. They not only dodge taxes, but also represent a deep-seated historical sensibility that accords more political and economic importance to trade over manufacturing industry.

Religious right: The establishment's historical patronage of the religious right is old news; various factions now have independent, organic roots. The Taliban are wreaking havoc in the tribal districts and other parts of KP, while there are any number of sectarian-militant organisations that operate in Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan and other parts of the country, empowered by formal legislation (like anti-Shia/blasphemy bills). The TLP is back in favour with the deep state; Jaranwala appears to be only the tip of a very large iceberg. The religious right is powerful at an ideological level and also a major source of social mobility. It is thus a major plank of the contemporary hegemonic order, and as the economic situation continues to worsen, is the most likely contender for popular mobilisation outside of the mainstream parties.

The people: Is there any hope for the mass of working people beyond ideologies of hate? There could be; however, this requires otherwise courageous but divided progressive segments to demonstrate vision and maturity. Those who rule us will continue to preside over an ever-worsening downward spiral, so the space for a meaningful popular alternative to an increasingly volatile and conflict-ridden status quo is there to be taken. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

1st ever China cargo shipment reached Afghanistan via Torkhem border

PESHAWAR (APP): The first ever Afghanistan-bound China cargo shipment that entered Pakistan through the Sost border from Khunjerab on August 28, 2023 crossed Torkhem border on Thursday evening for its final destination of Kabul.

The shipment was allowed to use old Silk Route under the UN's Transports International Routers (TIR) Convention, which provides an easy & economical route for trade between countries across the world.

On the occasion of the crossing of the border by China shipment a ceremony was also held at Torkhem Zero point.

Directorate of Transit Trade, Peshawar,

Collectorates of Customs, Appraisal and Enforcement, Peshawar, Incharge Pak Army, Incharge NLC, representative of Afghan Gumrak, office holders of Pak Afghan Chamber of Commerce and local traders attended the ceremony.

Director Pak-Afghan Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PAJCCI), Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi was also present at the historic event.

"This remarkable initiative marked a major development in the realm of transit trade and will go a long way in enhancing the transit trade activities on the Pak Afghan border as well as strengthening economic ties with China, Afghanistan and Central Asian republics," observed

Shams ur Rehman Wazir, Director Transit Trade Torkhem while speaking on the occasion.

He said the convoy of China cargo reached its destination safely and within its stipulated period of time without any hurdles.

Utilization of this route by Chinese businessmen for transportation of goods to Afghanistan will open up new vistas of commerce and livelihood in Pakistan, Shams added.

"This trade activity has been started on trial basis and soon its volume will be increased to a desired level," commented Arbab Qaiser, Director Transit Trade Customs Department.

In a press statement issued here, Arbab Qaiser said the scope of China goods will be expanded to Central Asian Republics after supplying goods to Afghanistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Director PAJCCI, Zia-ul-Haq Sarhadi highly hailed the crossing of first-ever China cargo for Afghanistan via the Khunjerab border and termed it a good omen for enhancing trade in the region. This development, Zia added, would not only increase the volume of trade at the regional level but would also create a large number of livelihood opportunities for people associated with customs clearance, goods transportation, fuel business, daily wagers, etc.



KARACHI: View of business activities seen closed while market gives desert look during the shutter down strike called by trader community against inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Saddar area in Karachi.



SIALKOT: Chairman Goods Association Arshad Lateef Butt presenting a shield to Chairman SIMAP Hassan Yousaf.

PSX turns around, gains 310 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) turned around to bullish trend on Friday and gained 310.24 points, showing growth of 0.69 percent, closing at 45,312.66 points against 45,002.41 points the previous trading day.

A total of 161,824,998 shares were traded during the day as

compared to 287,356,194 shares, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs 4.464 billion against Rs 12.303 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 294 companies transacted their shares in the stock market; 197 of them recorded gains and 81 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 16 companies remained unchanged.

SBP says: Monetary Policy Committee to meet on Sep 14

KARACHI (APP): The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) Friday clarified that the next meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was scheduled for September 14, 2023 and reports about holding of emergency meeting were baseless. The central bank in a statement issued here refuted the reports making rounds.

PM stresses need to continue GSP Plus scheme for Pakistan, EU interests

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Friday stressed the need to continue the GSP Plus scheme which served the interests of both Pakistan and the European Union.

The prime minister, in a meeting with EU Ambassador to Pakistan Riina Kionka, who called on him, emphasized the significant role of the GSP Plus scheme in boosting Pakistan's exports to the

European markets. He expressed satisfaction over the positive trajectory of Pakistan-EU ties and lauded recent progress made in that regard. Prime Minister Kakar said that his government was committed to safeguarding and upholding the rights of all its citizens. He said the government would provide constitutional continuity till the next general elections were held in the country.

Weekly inflation up by 0.54 percent

ISLAMABAD (APP): The weekly inflation, measured by the Sensitive Price Indicator (SPI), witnessed an increase of 0.54 percent for the combined consumption group during the week ended on August 31st, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) reported on Friday. The SPI for the week under review in the above-mentioned group was recorded at 277.21 points as compared to 275.71 points

during the past week, according to the PBS data. As compared to the corresponding week of last year, the SPI for the combined consumption group in the week under review witnessed an increase of 24.39 percent.

The weekly SPI with the base year 2015-16 =100 is covering 17 urban centers and 51 essential items for all expenditure groups.

Wapda inks Kurram Tangi dam consultancy agreement

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) signed an agreement worth Rs.776.3 million to a joint venture for consultancy services for Stage II of Kurram Tangi Dam Project.

The joint venture is comprised of four firms — one from Türkiye and three from Pakistan — with DOLSAR as the lead firm.

The contract comprises of consultancy services for detailed engineering design, preparation of updated PC-I, PC-I for land acquisition and resettlement plan, and tender documents of the project. The duration of the consultancy contract is 22 months, said a press release. The Asian Development Bank is providing financial

assistance for the consultancy services of the Stage-II. The contract signing ceremony was held at WAPDA House on Friday. Chief Engineer and Project Director Kurram Tangi Dam Muhammad Shafiq Bhattani and International Projects Coordinator of DOLSAR CemAker signed the contract on behalf of WAPDA and the joint venture respectively.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Five ships namely, Frankfurt Express, Sea Hazel, New Liberty, N-Orhan and Lusail scheduled to load/offload Containers, Fuel oil, Corn, LPG and LNG, berthed at the Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Oil Terminal, Gas Terminal and Elengy Terminal, respectively on Thursday.

A total of 11 ships were engaged at PQA berths during the last 24 hours, out of two ships.

CDNS attains Rs210bln targets in fresh bonds

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) has attained target of Rs210 billion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year, from July 1st to August 31st, 2023-24.

The Central Directorate of National Savings (CDNS) surpassed the annual target and achieved the target of Rs 1.6 trillion in fresh bonds in the current fiscal year from July 1st to June 30th,

2022-23, the senior official of CDNS told APP here on Friday.

This is Rs 200 billion additional annual target than the target of Rs1300 billion for the previous financial year 2021-22, he said.

"The CDNS has set a reviewed saving target of Rs 1.4 trillion for the current financial year (2021-22) which will "promote the savings culture in the country," he said.

Punjab Governor says: VCs should take strict measures to prevent the use of drugs in universities

Independent Report
LAHORE: Chancellor/Governor Punjab; Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting regarding Consortium on Drugs and Narcotics here at Governor House Lahore today. The proceedings of the previous meetings of the consortium and recommendations for the future were finalized in the meeting. He directed vice-chancellors/rectors of public and private sector universities to take steps in light of the decisions taken in the meeting and implement the final recommendations of the consortium in letter and

spirit for prevention of drug abuse in the premises of the universities. Talking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rahman said that youth is the most valuable asset and future of the country. He said that it is very important to provide a favourable educational environment to the young generation. He said that vice-chancellors should take strict measures to prevent the use of drugs in universities. He said that the Vice Chancellors should strive to create an environment for their students, staff, and faculty that is free from drug use.

He said that the Vice Chancellors should take measures to provide a safe, healthy and conducive academic environment to the students, teachers and other employees of the University. Governor Punjab directed that vice chancellors should ensure the establishment of anti-drug and tobacco committee under Drug and Narcotics Consortium in universities. The Punjab Governor said that the university security staff should maintain close liaison with the law enforcement agencies to prevent the supply of drugs in the universities.



LAHORE: Chancellor/Governor Punjab; Muhammad Balighur Rehman chaired a meeting regarding Consortium on Drugs and Narcotics here at Governor House.

Ending financial problems of universities my first priority: Governor

PESHAWAR (APP): The meeting under the Chairmanship of the Governor regarding the financial resources of the universities of the province, research commercialization and getting the universities out of financial deficit was held here on Friday. In the meeting, various aspects including commercialization of universities, making links with industries and imparting education to students equipped with modern technology were discussed in detail.

The Vice-Chancellor should try to include the universities of the province in the global ranking, Governor Haji Ghulam Ali said. Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Haji Ghulam Ali said that universities must pay special attention to modern and market-based research to face future challenges. Ending the financial problems of the universities is their first priority, the Governor said. It is very sad to see the current financial situation of the universities, despite the government assistance, all the government universities of the province are suffering from a financial

deficit, Haji Ghulam Ali said. "We all have to jointly play a role to get the universities out of these difficulties and move towards improvement and most of the responsibility falls on the vice chancellors and management of the university to minimize the costs and increase the resources," he added. Find alternative ways to create links with industries and commercialize research so that universities can stand on their own feet, the Governor said, while addressing a meeting held regarding financial resources of universities, research commercialization and bringing universities out of financial deficit.



KARACHI: Police officials are arresting the activists of Pashtun Tahafuz Movement (PTM) from redzone area, who were gathered to attend the protest against the arrest of their leaders in Islamabad, in Karachi.

ANF recovers 45 kg drugs in six operations

RAWALPINDI (APP): Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) while conducting six operations managed to recover 45 kg of drugs and arrested five accused, said an ANF Headquarters spokesman here on Friday.

He informed that in an operation, 500 ecstasy tablets were recovered from the possession of an arrested near Abbasin University Peshawar. The accused, a resident of Nowshera confessed to supplying drugs to the university students.

In another operation, 7 kg hashish and 5 kg crystal were recovered from the vehicle intercepted near Motorway Toll Plaza Peshawar. Two suspects who were trying to smuggle drugs from Peshawar to Punjab were arrested during the operation.

Flood relief activities continue: PDMA

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) Director General Imran Qureshi on Friday said that relief measures were going on in the flood affected areas of the province. In a statement, he said more than 595 villages were evacuated completely or partially during August 17 to 31, while more than 1,000 rescue personnel participated in round-the-clock relief operations. The DG elaborated

that more than 3,000 life jackets were distributed in the affected districts and 108 medical camps were set up to provide medical facilities to the affected. Around 16 ambulances were alerted in the affected areas for emergency response, he added and said that more than 42,000 patients were provided treatment facilities in the medical camps. Apart from medical, 181 relief camps were also established in the affected districts.

BRT service temporarily suspended in Peshawar

PESHAWAR (Online): BRT service has been suspended in Peshawar temporarily. According to spokesperson of BRT Trans Peshawar, IT system of BRT is being updated while repair work is being done in the corridor. Due to which all BRT services will remain closed on corridor and all feeder routes. According to spokesperson, the service will be restored once the repair work is completed.

GDA urges suspension of Sindh LGs for transparent elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA) delegation, during their meeting with the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) on Friday, pressed for the suspension of Sindh Local Governments (LG) and the installation of administrators to ensure transparency in the upcoming general elections. During a consultative meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner

(CEC) Sikandar Sultan Raja, the delegation urged the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to suspend Sindh Local Governments (LG) and appoint administrators to ensure transparency in the upcoming general elections. The GDA delegation emphasized the importance of adhering to the Election Commission's directives for transferring and appointing provincial officers.

operation.

KP educational institutions increases fee to meet their expenses

PESHAWAR (APP): The educational institutions across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have increased the fees to meet the expenses of universities, documents reveal here on Friday. Looking at the documents of the several universities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, they have increased their fees. The fees of Islamia College University Peshawar, Jamia Peshawar, KUMU and Agricultural University have been increased.

The Islamia College administration has also increased the hostel fees by Rs. 3000, the document

revealed. The pre-medical fee has been increased from Rs. 45000 to Rs. 49465 on open merit in Islamia College. Pre-medical fee has been increased by Rs. 13000 on self-finance, the fee has been increased from Rs. 98000 to Rs. 1,11,000. After the increase of Rs. 5000 in pre-engineering, the fee has become Rs. 47,000, the increase of Rs. 5000 per semester in the 4-year BS program also, says the document available to this agency. The fee for MPhil has been increased by Rs. 5,000 and the fee for Ph.D. has been increased by Rs. 7,000 per semester.



RATODERO: Students of Government Boys Primary School are studying under open sky, as the only one classroom built for 200 more students, which is in the worst condition in the school, they are demanding to build more classrooms in the school, they also demanded basic facilities including furniture, fans, electricity, and cold water, at Pir Bahar Shah village in Ratodero.

JUI popularity graph witnesses upward trend: Mayor

PESHAWAR (APP): Mayor Peshawar, Haji Zubair Ali, has said that the popularity graph of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) was witnessing an upward trend with each passing day and the trust people imposed in our services would never be shattered. Talking to a gathering at Tablighi Markaz, Samdo Garhi, and Bashir Abad here wherein 57 families from various political parties

announced joining JUI, he said the problems of the masses would be addressed at their doorstep. He said open courts were being conducted on a daily basis to address people's grievances. On the occasion, JUI leaders Maulana Abdul Jalil Jan, Siddiqur Rehman Paracha, Saadat Afridi, Mufti Ameen, Chairman Zahid Ullah, and representatives of various union councils were also present.

International News

US House Foreign Affairs Committee chair calls Russia-China alliance the biggest threat since WWII

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: The chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee said Friday that a partnership between the Russian and Chinese leaders worried him, adding, "We have never seen a threat this large scale to Europe and the Pacific, I would argue, since World War II."

An alliance between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin "provides a very big challenge I think for the free world in this great power competition that we find ourselves in," Rep. Michael McCaul, a Texas Republican, said during a visit to Sweden. The Biden administration has warned Xi's government of unspecified consequences if it supports the Kremlin's war effort in Ukraine. A United States intelligence report said Beijing possibly provided

equipment used in Ukraine that might have military applications. The report cited Russian customs data that showed Chinese state-owned military contractors supplied navigation equipment, fighter jet parts, drones and other goods, but didn't say whether that might trigger U.S. retaliation. China has stepped up purchases of Russian oil and gas, which helps Putin's government offset lost sales after the United States, Europe and Japan cut off most purchases of Russian energy. Beijing can do that without triggering Western sanctions on its own companies, but Washington and its allies are frustrated that it undercuts economic pressure on Moscow.

China rejects Western trade and financial sanctions on Russia because they weren't authorized by the United Nations Security Council, where Beijing and Moscow have veto power. However, China has appeared to avoid directly defying those sanctions. McCaul, who was part of a U.S. congressional delegation visiting Sweden and met with Foreign Minister Tobias Billström, said he expects the Nordic country to join NATO by October. Long-neutral Sweden applied for NATO membership together with neighboring Finland in 2022. New entries must be approved by all existing members, and as NATO leaders met for a summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, Sweden was missing the green light from two: Turkey and Hungary. Finland, which shares a 1,340-kilometer (832-mile) border with Russia—more than doubling the length of NATO's border with Russia—became the 31st member of the world's biggest military alliance in April.



Foreign Minister Tobias Billström, background, listens during a press briefing together with US congressmen Michael McCaul, centre and Gregory Meeks, in Stockholm.

UN chief sends Russia new proposals to revive Black Sea grain deal but Moscow isn't satisfied

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations chief sent Russia a new proposal aimed at getting its grain and fertilizer to global markets in hopes of reviving the deal that allowed Ukraine to ship almost 33,000 tons of grain at a time of growing global hunger. But Moscow wasn't satisfied with the letter that U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov earlier this

week. Speaking at a press conference Thursday after meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, Lavrov said he had given Ankara a list of actions that the West would have to take in order to resume Ukrainian shipments. The United Nations and Turkey brokered the deal in July 2022 that allowed Ukraine to ship grain and other foodstuffs from three Black Sea ports. A separate memorandum be-

tween the U.N. and Russia pledged to overcome obstacles to Moscow's shipment of food and fertilizer to world markets. The deal followed Russia's Feb. 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine which sent global food prices skyrocketing because the two countries are major "breadbaskets" for the world. Guterres told U.N. reporters on Thursday that he had written a letter to Lavrov with "a set of concrete proposals."

Fire in illegal housing block kills 74 in South Africa

Monitoring Desk
JOHANNESBURG: A fire that tore through a five-storey building taken over for illegal housing killed 74 people including 12 children in central Johannesburg overnight, South African authorities said on Thursday. An additional 61 were injured and treated in hospital in one of the deadliest fires worldwide in recent years. Bodies were discovered piled up at a security gate that was closed, preventing people from escaping the blaze, an official said.

The head of forensic services in Johannesburg's Gauteng province said a total of 74

bodies were recovered, 24 females, 40 males and 10 "burnt beyond recognition". "We are having 12 children involved also in this tragedy," he told a press conference. City authorities said the municipality-owned building in a deprived, crime-ridden area had been turned into illegal housing after being abandoned. Most of those living there were foreigners, one resident said.

"I'm grateful to be alive, there was a lot of us running, trying to find the fire exit and a lot of people eventually died because of the smoke inhalation," said Kenny Bupe, a survivor caught up in the blaze while visiting a friend.



Abdel-fatau Musah, Ecowas commissioner, and Omar Aliou Touray, who heads the bloc's commission, look on as Niger Foreign Minister Hassoumi Massaoudou speaks to the media in Toledo, Spain.

French ambassador told to leave Niger

Monitoring Desk
NIAMEY: Niger's new military rulers have stripped France's ambassador of diplomatic immunity and ordered police to expel him, according to a letter seen on Thursday by AFP, a move that ratchets up tensions with the country's traditional ally. The envoy "no longer enjoys the privileges and immunities attached to his status as member of the diplomatic personnel in the French embassy," according to their letter, dated Tuesday, to the foreign ministry in Paris. "(His) diplomatic cards and visas and those

of the members of his family have been cancelled. The police have been instructed to proceed to his expulsion," it said. The move follows a coup in the troubled Sahel state on July 26 that toppled a close French ally, President Mohamed Bazoum. Relations with France spiralled downwards after Paris stood by Bazoum and refused to recognise Niger's new rulers. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said on Thursday that a military solution to the coup in Niger would be a "disaster" that could trigger a new migration crisis.

The Congolese military is accused of a deadly crackdown on a religious sect, killing at least 43

Monitoring Desk
DAKAR: More than 40 people died and dozens were injured while protesters from a religious sect gathered in the Congolese city of Goma, national authorities said. Congo's communications ministry said violence related to planned protests led to 43 deaths and 56 injuries, raising the preliminary death toll of seven announced by the army on Wednesday. Dozens were being treated for severe injuries in nearby hospitals, and the UN human rights office said Friday more than 220 people were arrested. "People have a right to express themselves freely and to assemble peacefully, even if in protest at the United Nations and other actors," UN human rights office spokesperson Ravina Shamdasani said on Friday.

The protest was organized by a sect called the Natural Judaic and Messianic Faith Towards the Nations and known colloquially as Wazalendo. Its supporters were demonstrating against the regional East African Community organization and the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Congo, called MONUSCO, which is in the process of being drawn down by the end of the year. Goma's Mayor Faustin Napenda Kapend had banned the protest on Aug. 23 soon after it was announced. Congolese security and defense forces had amassed at major intersections in anticipation when violence broke out around 4 a.m. Wednesday. Wednesday's events were "an apparent massacre" according to Human Rights Watch, an advocacy group.

Putin to meet Erdogan amid push to revive grain deal

Monitoring Desk
MOSCOW: Russian President Vladimir Putin will hold talks with Turkey's Tayyip Erdogan on Monday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi as Ankara and the United Nations seek to revive a Ukraine grain export deal that helped ease a global food crisis. Russia quit the deal in July - a year after it was brokered by the United Nations and Turkey - complaining that its own food and fertilizer exports faced obstacles and that not enough Ukrainian grain was going to countries in need. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Erdogan, who previously played a significant role in convincing Putin to stick with the deal, would hold talks with the Kremlin chief in Sochi on Monday but gave no further details.

Trump pleads not guilty in Georgia election case

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Former US president Donald Trump pleaded not guilty on Thursday to charges that he led a criminal conspiracy to overturn his 2020 election loss in the southern state of Georgia. The Republican presidential frontrunner, who faces 13 felony counts, including racketeering, entered his plea in a court filing waiving his right to appear at an arraignment next

Wednesday. Trump, 77, surrendered to the Fulton County jail in the state capital Atlanta last week and was the first former US president pictured in a police mugshot. Released on a \$200,000 bond and given the inmate number "PO1135809," Trump was accused of colluding with 18 other defendants in a multi-pronged attempt to overturn his defeat in Georgia.

Sweden rocked by four blasts in one night

Monitoring Desk
STOCKHOLM: Bomb squad experts have been called in after Swedish cities were rocked by four explosions in just over an hour, police said, with the country struggling to rein in a surge of gang-related violence. Just after 1am local time, police in Gothenburg received reports of two explosions at separate addresses, just 10 minutes apart. "Both sites have been cordoned off and technical investigations are ongoing," police said, adding that the national bomb squad had been called to the scene.

Senate Body expresses serious concerns over hike in electricity prices

ISLAMABAD (INP): Chairman Senate Standing Committee on Cabinet Secretariat Senator Rana Maqbool Ahmad on Friday taking the notice of the hike in electricity prices said that this a National crisis and many cases of suicide on it has been reported lately in the country.

While addressing the chairman NEPRA, the Senate Committee submit proposal to withdraw all taxes on electricity bills, in particular of the under privileged class.

The committee chair also sought briefing by the Chairman NEPRA on the mechanisms through which rapid increase in electricity rates are applied and send recommendations for its reconsideration. The committee also sought details on the owners of the IPP. The committee was of the view that it is National dilemma and the people of Pakistan are critically suffering due to severe economic crisis therefore relief

should be given to the people.

The committee sought details on the recent cases of casualties and injuries caused by electrocution and domestic substandard electrical wiring in the country and measures adopted to avoid the fatal incident. The committee lamented that scores of cases are pending in the tribunal and no compensation are being made to the effectees. It was briefed that total 164 fatalities in DISCOs have occurred during FY 2022-23 whereas 106 non fatal injuries took place. The committee chair gave recommendations to expedite disposal of pending cases.

Earlier in the meeting, the committee discussed at length the details of achievement of each awardee of National Awards 2023 as per their citation. Joint Secretary Awards Cabinet Division, informed the committee that the awards are being distributed in different fields such as Act of Bravery.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of Iran, Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of the European Union Dr. Riina Kionka and British High Commissioner Jane Marriott separately meeting with caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

PM directs authorities to curb smuggling of sugar, petroleum products

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Friday directed the customs authorities and law enforcement agencies to strictly curb the smuggling of sugar, petroleum products, urea, agricultural products and other items.

He was chairing a high level meeting for stopping smuggling in Pakistan.

During the meeting, he was briefed on the situation of smuggling of different items across the country,

especially in the border areas, and about the steps taken for stopping the menace.

The meeting was told that 10 additional check posts of law enforcement agencies were notified to curb smuggling in Balochistan. The prime minister instructed that an inter agency report should be prepared about the officers involved in smuggling in the province.

He directed strong departmental action against

the officers involved in smuggling in Balochistan and award of exemplary punishment to them. He said the smuggling of petroleum products was reducing revenue and putting pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserves.

He said he would chair a weekly meeting to review the performance of institutions and to curb the menace of smuggling.

He ordered that the border markets with Iran should be made more viable

so that trade could be done with proper documents.

He said smuggling was causing a loss of billions of rupees to the national economy and it was critical to end the problem of smuggling.

The PM was told that smuggling was reduced by 40 percent due to the untiring efforts of law enforcement institutions. He was apprised of the strategy of the law enforcement departments against smuggling.

NPMC Reviews Prices of Essential Commodities

ISLAMABAD (Online): The National Price Monitoring Committee (NPMC) reviewed the prices of essential commodities on Friday and directed the relevant stakeholders to maintain food prices to provide relief to the common man.

During the meeting, PBS officials presented the price and inflation data, while representatives from Punjab, KP, Sindh, and Balochistan apprised the forum on the current production and supply of wheat, sugar, and other essential commodities, which remained satisfactory.

The Minister emphasized zero tolerance against hoarders and profiteers, directing the Provincial governments to engage their respective Commissions, Deputy Commissioners, and Magistrates against hoarders. The Committee also directed the Provincial government to establish Sasta Bazaars to provide maximum relief to the people. The meeting also highlighted the importance of minimizing the price difference between wholesale and retail items. Relevant stakeholders were directed to reduce this difference to maximize relief to the common man.

measures need to be taken to control abnormal gaps in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and wholesale price index (WPI). remarked the Caretaker Planning Minister, Sami Saeed, during the NPMC meeting.

Meeting was attended by the Chief Statistician from the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS), representatives from all provinces, the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), Ministry of Food Security & Industries, and other relevant stakeholders.

Since the interim government came into power, the Prime Minister has focused on providing maximum relief to the common man. In this regard, several steps are being taken. The meeting observed that the prices of a few commodities increased last week, leading to the decision to hold NPMC meetings on a weekly basis to monitor prices and provide relief to the masses. "Immediate



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights, Mushaal Hussein Mullick addressing a seminar on 2nd Martyrdom Anniversary Syed Ali Shah Gillani at Kashmir House.

Mushaal Mullick says Geelani's thoughts will continue to serve as beacon of hope for Kashmiris

ISLAMABAD (APP): Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Human Rights and Women Empowerment Mushaal Hussein Mullick on Friday paid glowing tributes to veteran Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Geelani, calling him a role model for the future generations. Addressing three different seminars in connection with the second death anniversary of great Hurriyat leader, Mullick said the late Geelani dedicated his entire life and sacrificed everything for the sacred cause of Kashmir freedom struggle without budging an inch from his principled position till he breathed his last. The SAPM stated that history testified that those who influenced human thoughts, their life was dedicated to some cause and they rendered sacrifices for freedom, always remained alive.

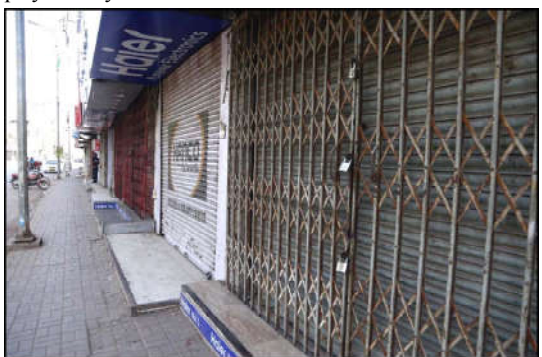
Therefore, she said, personalities like Hazrat Baba Bulleh Shah and Syed Ali Geelani did not die and they just disappeared physically but their

thoughts remained in the human minds.

Mushaal said Syed Ali Geelani embraced martyrdom under Indian police custody on September 1, 2021 at his residence in Hyderabad, Srinagar. He was kept under continued illegal house arrest for over a decade by the Indian forces and it was now feared that a number of Hurriyat leaders, including Yasin Malik, were in queue to get the same fate like Geelani.

Therefore, she urged the United Nations bodies and the world powers to take cognizant of the inhuman acts by Indian occupation authorities and take urgent steps to ensure their safe release to avoid their custodial deaths.

She said that Geelani gave his life in the struggle for independence of Kashmir, and exposed the fascist and oppressed face of India to the world, who dedicated his life and even his death to telling everybody that freedom could not be compromised or traded off.



KARACHI: View of business activities seen closed while market gives desert look during the shutter down strike called by trader community against inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Saddar area in Karachi.

DG HDA says people should support WASA instead criticism

HYDERABAD (APP): The Director General of Hyderabad Development Authority (HDA) Fuad Ghaffar Soomro has asked the people to spare the Water and Sanitation Agency (WASA) from unnecessary criticism because the agency is dealing with a financial crunch.

Addressing the oath-taking ceremony of HDA Labour Union (CBA) at Shahbaz Hall of Shahbaz Building here on Friday, Soomro, who is also Deputy Commissioner Hyderabad, said instead of criticism, the people should support the stabilization efforts being undertaken by WASA. He expressed hope that the newly elected office bearers of the union would play their part to

strengthen WASA and HDA, which was the agency's parent organization.

The DC also congratulated the office bearers on assuming the offices. The union's General Secretary Insaf Ali Lashari said the union was ready to play a constructive role to strengthen WASA and HDA and to improve performance as well.

However, he said the authorities ought to seriously address the very serious problem of default in payment of salaries and pensions to the employees and pensioners for many months.

He added that the union's priority would be to take the issue of unpaid salaries and pensions.

CTD launches information based search operations in city

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has launched an information based phase-wise search operations in sensitive areas of the megalopolis to nab the suspects involved in terrorism and ensure peace.

According to spokesman for CTD Sindh on Friday, the CTD along with the concerned police station conducted a search operation during which 79 suspected persons were checked and their data was verified through Talash App.

Car driver who escaped after accident arrested

KARACHI (INP): A car driver who had escaped after injuring several was arrested by police here on Friday.

According to details, an over speeding car had hit several bikes, pushcarts injuring a family and several others near Gulshan Iqbal Park some five days earlier but the car driver sped the scene.

The police traced and arrest the driver at large stated to student of legal studies.

Deputy Mayor grieved over demise of father of Allama Shehanshah Hussain Naqvi

KARACHI (APP): Deputy Mayor Karachi Salmaan Abdullah Murad has expressed his condolences over the demise of the father of prominent scholar Allama Syed Shehanshah Hussain Naqvi.

In a condolence message on Friday, the Deputy Mayor said that he shares the grief of the bereaved family members.

Dengue cases continue to raise across Sindh

KARACHI (INP): At least 11 dengue fever cases were reported in Karachi in the last 24 hours.

According to the provincial health department report, the majority number of cases in Karachi have been reported in district East, where a total of 06 patients have been infected by the virus during the past 24 hours, meanwhile, District Central reported 04 cases of dengue.

The health department data showed the number of dengue patients increased to 208 in Sindh.

COAS visits CMH Bannu, ISPR

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Syed Asim Munir, COAS visited CMH Bannu to inquire about the health and well-being of the injured soldiers on Friday.

Where nine brave soldiers embraced Shahadat yesterday when a suicide bomber blasted himself near military convoy in Jani Khel area.

Chief of Army Staff was briefed on the ongoing operations and overall security situation.

COAS appreciated the high morale and unflinching resolve of the troops. "Pakistan Army will continue to act as a bulwark against terrorism to safeguard the nation from this scourge," COAS emphasized.

While interacting with officers and troops deployed in the area, COAS emphasized, "The Army, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Nation can never be coerced by the cowardly tactics of the Terrorists, who have a misbelief that they can challenge the iron resolve of the soldiers and writ of the State."

He further said, "We have fought for long and will continue to fight the menace of Terrorism till the end. The Nation pays rich tribute to those who have laid their lives and their sacrifices will forever be honoured."

Earlier on arrival, COAS was received by Commander Peshawar Corps.

COAS appreciated the high morale and unflinching resolve of the troops. "Pakistan Army will continue to act as a bulwark against terrorism to safeguard the nation from this scourge," COAS emphasized.

He said every citizen had freedom of speech and a right to criticize that could not be taken away, but at the same time "we also have the right to present the facts without any fear".



LAHORE: Former Chief Minister Punjab and Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) President, Chaudhary Pervaiz Elahi leaving after court case hearing, at High Court in Lahore.

Terrorism major threat to border & transit trade: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that terrorists have started targeting border and transit trade, resulting in heavy losses to the exporters and importers.

Security of transit cargo should be ensured; otherwise, this sector will be ruined like other sectors of the country's economy, he said.

In a statement on Friday, Mian Zahid Hussain

said that after targeting the trucks and trailers coming from Pakistan to Afghanistan and vice versa, now the trade between India and Afghanistan is also being targeted.

The repeated attacks on trucks and trailers in the border region could seriously affect Pakistan's trade with Central Asian states as kidnappings and beatings of truck drivers have become routine, which is affecting confidence in the business community, he added.

The business leader said that the business of thousands of Pakistanis is related to transit trade and border trade.

He said that the business of thousands of Pakistanis is related to transit trade and border trade.



HYDERABAD: Members of Hindu Council are holding protest demonstration for recovery of Priya Kumari as soon as possible, at Hyderabad press club.

MoU inked to foster growth of SMEs, MSME

KARACHI (APP): The Sindh Enterprise Development Fund (SEDF) and Pakistan Mobile Communications Limited (PMCL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster the growth of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs/MSMEs) in Sindh.

Secretary Investment Sindh Tameez Uddin Khero, CEO SEDF Khizar Pervaiz and Chief Business Officer of Jazz Business Asif Aziz attended the MoU signing ceremony, said a statement on Friday.

The MoU envisages PMCL's offer regarding a comprehensive suite of services tailored to the needs of SMEs.

Monkeypox symptoms found in 3 Pakistani passengers returned from Libya

KARACHI (INP): Three passengers who arrived at Jinnah International Airport, Karachi from Libya have shown signs of possible monkeypox disease, reported on Friday.

Sindh DG Health informed that all three passengers were Pakistanis and they were quarantined after reaching Karachi airport.

On Thursday, the Sindh health department's surveillance team identified three passengers coming from Libya who showed symptoms of monkeypox. According to Sindh DG Health, the Karachi Airport Surveillance Team of the Health Department identified three passengers who came from Libya on 31 August 2023, aged between 30 and 45.

Transporters jack up fare after hike in fuel prices

KARACHI (INP): Following another massive hike in fuel prices, the local transporters in Karachi, have unilaterally increased the fare by up to Rs30 without any check from the authorities on Friday.

According to details, local transporters unilaterally increased the fares of busses and coaches by Rs20 to Rs30 stop-to-stop despite the fact that the district administration has not notified any increase in this regard.

Earlier, the caretaker government notified an increase in the price of petrol by Rs 14.9 per litre.

Karachi airport gets modern bag scanning machine

KARACHI (INP): State-of-the-art hold baggage scanning machine has been installed at the Jinnah International Airport in Karachi.

UK's High Commissioner to Pakistan Jane Marriott inaugurated the scanning machine at the airport and attended a ceremony in this regard.

Passengers traveling to the UK will now benefit from the advanced capabilities of this state-of-the-art scanning machine, which will efficiently and comprehensively scan their baggage for enhanced security.



BHITSHAH: Sindh Caretaker Minister for Culture and Tourism, Syed Dr. Junaid Shah and Muhammad Umar Soomro, Sindh Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs are witnessing performance of folk artists during a ceremony on the occasion of 280th Urs Celebration of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai in Bhitshah.

WHO Country head calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Health Organization's (WHO) Representative in Pakistan Dr. Palitha Gunaratna Mahipala called on caretaker Health Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan on Friday and discussed measures taken for the improvement of health sector.

WHO Chief congratulated the Minister for Health on assuming this important responsibility.

The appointment of a world-renowned public health expert is a welcome development for the health sector, Dr Palitha said.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and Dr. Ahmed Al Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean have expressed their happiness about your appointment, he said.

WHO has stood by Pakistan in every difficult hour. The services of the World Health Organization in dealing with the outbreak of Coronavirus are commendable.

"We appreciate WHO's support in polio eradication efforts," Dr. Nadeem Jan said.

"My mission is to ensure massive reforms in the health sector in the short term. Without the development of health and education, social development cannot be attained," said the Health Minister.

He added the health sector needs strong investment to meet public aspirations. Health systems are being strengthened to deal with multiplicity and epidemics.

"Providing quality service for the improvement of the health sector is part of my agenda. Primary health care system is also being strengthened," said the minister.

"We are ensuring universal Health Coverage through National Health Card." In the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where poliovirus is present, an integrated strategy is being developed.

cloths and gifts among deserving women. Speaking to the media on the occasion Provincial Minister for Culture Dr. Junaid Shah expressed that the culture department was making efforts to include Bhitai's poetry in the curriculum so that his message of love and humanity could be reached to our children.

He emphasized that Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai was not just a source of pride for Pakistan and Sindh but for the entire Islamic world as well and his message gave a lesson of love and sympathy with humanity. It is crucial to act upon his teachings in this era, he said and added that the Culture Department was making sincere efforts to spread his message.

Provincial ministers also listen "Waa" of Shah Sain inside the shrine's courtyard and distributed

celebrations commence

HYDERABAD (INP): Prominent Sufi Saint and Poet Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's 280th annual Urs celebrations commenced with formal ceremonies in Bhit Shah town of district Matiari on Friday.

The event was jointly inaugurated by the caretaker provincial minister of Law, Religious Affairs and Human Rights Muhammad Omar Soomro and the caretaker minister of culture Dr. Syed Junaid Shah by laying a traditional chadar at the shrine.