

Independent

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Karachi

Ph: 0300-3898091 Vol: 05. No. 252 Safar 19, 1445 AH Wednesday September 06, 2023 Pages 04 Price Rs. 12.00

PM directs to curb smuggling by enhancing surveillance at irregular border crossings

Emphasizes utilization of country's immense natural resources; Says main constitutional responsibility of caretaker government is to provide assistance in elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Tuesday directed the Customs authorities to establish a monitoring system at irregular border crossings to prevent smuggling in the country.

He was chairing a meeting to discuss measures for discouraging smuggling and promoting trade through legal channels. He

was given a detailed briefing by the Ministry of Commerce.

PM Kakar was informed about proposed plans to enhance exports volume, besides possible steps to curb smuggling.

Different modalities of trade under the Afghanistan Transit Trade Agreement were also reviewed. It was recommended to improve the system for scanning and monitoring of the

traded goods. Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has underlined the need for taking more steps to fully utilize the potential of country's immense natural resources.

Chairing a high-level meeting to review performance of Petroleum Division in Islamabad Tuesday, he said road infrastructure needs to be improved to

access the natural resources.

The Prime Minister directed to take strict measures against illegal mining. He also instructed to complete all legal requirements at the earliest for appointment of the head of Oil and Gas Development Authority.

On the occasion, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was given detailed briefing regarding the performance of the Petroleum Division.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Petroleum.



ISLAMABAD: Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, along with the members of his delegation, called on President Dr. Arif Alvi, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Caretaker home minister visits DIGP Traffic Karachi office

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Home and Prisons Brigadier (Rtd.) Haris Nawaz on Tuesday visited the office of DIGP - Traffic Karachi.

On the occasion, the minister laid a floral wreath on the Yadgar-e-Shuhada (martyrs monument) of traffic police and offered Fateha.

The minister said a model project of a separate track for motorcyclists should be started on Shahr-e-Faisal from Karsaz to Airport.

He directed the DIGP Traffic to compile comprehensive survey report regarding misuse of commercial parking in city buildings and maintenance of parking area.

Recommendations in this regard should be submitted as soon as possible.

Brig. (Rtd.) Haris Nawaz said police officers and officials should ensure

good behavior with the citizens.

During his briefing to the minister, DIGP Traffic Karachi Ahmed Nawaz Cheema told that there were 9077 sanctioned posts while 5557 officials were performing duties.

He said there were 153 traffic signals in the city of which 86 were under the management of Traffic Engineering Bureau, 65 Cantonment Boards and 2 under the management of CAA.

The DIGP said Traffic Helpline 1915 was serving the citizens round the clock.

Ahmed Nawaz Cheema said traffic police had 438 body cameras which help in the accountability process.

The said bodyworn cameras were attached to the front of the shirts of traffic cops and were in constant recording mode.



KARACHI: Mayor, Barrister Murtaza Wahab and Deputy Mayor Salman Abdullah Murad address to media persons during press conference after inspection visit to Shershah area, held in Karachi.

Interior Minister vows to tackle Illegal immigration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti Tuesday vowed to tackle the illegal immigration issue and provide foolproof security to the foreigners.

He was chairing a meeting on law and order situation in the country here, which was attended by senior officials from the police, security agencies, and the National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA). The minister said that maintaining law and order was the top priority of the government and that miscreant activities by any individual or group would not be tolerated.

He directed the authorities to formulate a comprehensive strategy for the return of foreigners liv-

ing illegally in Pakistan. Sarfraz Bugti also ordered completion of the action plan to open three more border crossings on the Pakistan-Iran border.

The minister stressed the need to clearly define the scope of police and security agencies in order to improve their performance. He also directed the authorities to provide state-of-the-art training and resources to the civil armed forces. Regarding the security of foreigners, the minister directed the authorities concerned to ensure the implementation of the code of conduct by finalizing it.

He also ordered the provision of all possible facilities to visa applicants for business and investment.

Elahi arrested again after being released from the police line

ISLAMABAD (Online): Tehreek-e-Insaf President and former Punjab Chief Minister Ch. Pervez Elahi was arrested again after being released from the police line.

According to the spokesperson of the Capital Police, Pervez Elahi has been arrested in the case number 3/23 registered in the police station CTD.

According to sources, PTI president will be transferred to CTD police station. Parvez Elahi came out of the police lines in the car of Sardar Abdul Razaq Advocate, his lawyer Sardar Abdul Razek Advocate and the driver were taken down and Parvez Elahi was taken along with the car.

In this regard, his lawyer Abdul Raziq Advocate said that Pervez Elahi was released on a court order but has been arrested again.

Finance ministry sends to IMF new plan regarding relief in Electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (Online): Finance Ministry has sent new plan regarding relief in electricity bills to IMF through which IMF has been assured that no relief out of budget will be provided.

According to government sources the additional amount allocated for IPPs can be adjusted for extending relief to electricity consumers.

Sources said over Rs 15 billion will be allocated for IPPs again on receipt of installments of the bill.

According to finance ministry sources finance ministry authorities will again talk to IMF ON NEW PLAN. In new plan IMF has been assured for not providing relief out of budget. Earlier IMF had rejected government plan on extending relief to people on electricity bills.

KARACHI: Interaction with Business Community by Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC).

Bilawal terms Sept 6 as metaphor for Pakistan's courage

KARACHI (APP): Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has termed the September 6 as a metaphor for Pakistan's national courage & bravery and said that the nation is united and always ready to defend its homeland.

In his message to the nation on the occasion of Defence Day, he saluted the armed forces for their bravery and sacrifices. He has also paid glowing tribute to the families of the martyrs of the armed forces for their courage and patience.

The PPP Chairman said that it is a matter of pride for him that the performance of PPP leadership and its governments in the defense of the country has been historic and wonderful.

SC reserves judgment in NAB amendment case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has reserved judgment on PTI chairman Imran Khan petition against NAB amendment.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Umar Ata Bandial has remarked it can be estimated from the reasons for withdrawing NAB amendment that tilt is towards where.

He gave these remarks while presiding over a 3-member bench during hearing of Chairman PTI petition against NAB amendment here Tuesday.

The other two members of bench are Justice Ijaz ul Ahsan and Justice Mansoor Ali Shah.

At the inception of hearing of the case counsel for chairman PTI told the court written submissions have been filed.

Italian Navy ship visits Pakistan, conducts sea exercise

KARACHI (APP): Italian Navy Ship MOROSINI on Tuesday visited Karachi and conducted bilateral exercise with Pakistan Navy.

Upon arrival at Karachi Port, the Italian Navy Ship was warmly welcomed by senior officials of the Pakistan Navy and the Ambassador of Italy, a Pakistan Navy news release said. On completion of the port visit, Pakistan Navy Ship SHAHJAHAN with embarked helicopter and PAF fighters carried out a sea exercise with a visiting Italian ship to enhance interoperability between both navies.

The sea exercise is aimed at strengthening mutual professional skills

through cooperation and learning from each other's experiences. Concurrent to the ship's visit, Director of Military Personnel of the Italian Navy, Vice Admiral Andrea GU'GLIO visited Pakistan and called on Commander Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Muhammad Faisal Abbasi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and avenues for future collaboration to enhance regional maritime security were discussed. An Italian Defence Industries delegation led by Chairman Fincantieri, General @ Claudio GRAZIANO (former Italian COAS) also visited Karachi to showcase the capabilities of the Italian defence industry and shipbuilding.

He reminded that laying the foundations of the nuclear program to make the defense of the country impregnable was a strategic gift of Quaid-e-Awam Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to the nation, adding that Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto further innovated and strengthened the defense of the homeland by giving the gift of missile technology to armed forces.

"After Prime Minister Shaheed Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, President Asif Ali Zardari was the second head of the country, who paid tribute to the soldiers for their great service on behalf of the entire nation by increasing the salaries of the armed forces by more than 100 percent," he added.

The CJP Umar Ata Bandial while inquiring remarked have you read NAB report. NAB has told the reasons in respect of the references which were returned till May. It can be assessed from the reasons for returning the reference tilt is towards where.

All have come on record the references of which personalities have been returned.

The CJP remarked one amendment came in May and second in June in section 23 of NAB law. The references which were returned before May are still held by NAB. Who will give reply to these questions from NAB side.

NAB special prosecutor said in his reply to question that additional prosecutor general will reach within some time.

Pakistan to mark Defence Day with national spirit, pay homage to nation's martyrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): Determined to thwart any aggression against the motherland, the nation will hold the annual 'Defence Day of Pakistan' celebrations on Wednesday with a reinvigorated pledge to safeguard its geographical and ideological boundaries in every situation and at all cost.

The historic day of September 6 will be commemorated with an unmitigated vigor and enthusiasm, sending a message loud and clear to hostile India that the Pakistani nation and armed forces were fully prepared to frustrate any designs against the country's sovereignty and integrity. A number of activities will be held across the country, reaffirming the nation's resolve not to let anyone cast an evil eye at the homeland, achieved

on August 14, 1947 after great sacrifices rendered by Muslims of the sub-continent.

The day will dawn with special prayers in the mosques for the well-being and prosperity of the country, besides 31-gun salute at the federal capital and 21-gun salute at provincial capitals.

The change of guard ceremony will take place at the Mazar-e-Quaid in Karachi in the morning. 'Fateha' and Quran Khawani will be held for all those who sacrificed their lives while defending the motherland. Wreath laying ceremonies will be held at the mausoleums of the recipients of Nishan-e-Haider (the highest gallantry award), which will be attended by the senior officials of the respective areas across the country.

The national media,

both print and electronic, have chalked out comprehensive coverage plans of the events to be held in connection with the day. Newspapers will publish special supplements, while electronic media will telecast special programmes, highlighting the importance of the day in Pakistan's military history.

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti chairing a review meeting.

Govt committed for uniform, quality education system on modern lines: Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindh Tuesday assured that his government would ensure a uniform and quality educational system in the country and vowed to improve the ability of public sector teachers to modernize the education system.

"Quality education was the highest priority of the present government and assured the students of resolving their problems on immediate basis and that they would be assisted in every possible way", he said while talking to a Private news channel.

"Our main focus is to pay special attention to the higher education as well as character building of the students at school level so that they could use their leadership abilities for the betterment and sustainable development of the country", he added.

"The condition of government schools will also be improved, adding, the services of private schools cannot also be ignored.

The public-private schools would equally be standardized across the country, he mentioned.

ECP notifies 20 victorious candidates for reserve seats in Balochistan district councils

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Tuesday notified the names of 20 elected members for women's reserved seats in the local government elections held on August 23, 2023, encompassing the district council seats in six Balochistan's districts.

The notification includes the following districts: Pishin, Nushki, Dera Bugti, Kacchi, Kalat, and Panjgur. The returned candidate for the District Council in Pishin includes Bibi Hajira, daughter of Ihsan Ullah, representing JUI-P.

Bibi Guldasta, daughter of Syed Abdul Kabeer from PKMAP, and Bibi Sajida, daughter of Rozi Khan from JUI-P, have also been notified.

Additionally, Bibi Salma, daughter of Noor Uddin, Bibi Rubina Tareen, and Bibi Pari Gul, daughter of Jahangir Shah, all from JUI-P, have been officially announced as returned candidates.

Women received official notifications as the returned candidates for reserved seats from district council Nushki.

This includes Bibi Samina, representing JUI-F and daughter of Muhammad Yousaf, along with Hanain Mengal, daughter of Muhammad

Rahim, representing BNP, for the Nushki District Council.

In the case of the Dera Bugti District Council, the female candidates who have been officially notified are Shehzadi, an Independent candidate and daughter of Sher Dil, as well as Bakhto Bibi and Salehat, both from BAP and daughters of Dhalak Khan and Raja respectively.

Similarly, for the Kacchi District Council, the women set to represent include Zeenat Bibi, an independent candidate and daughter of Ghulam Rasool, as well as Lal Bakht, daughter of Muhammad Alim.

The reserved seats for women on the Kalat District Council have been secured by the following candidates: Ganj Khattoon, an Independent candidate and daughter of Lal Muhammad, along with Taj Bakht, also an Independent candidate, representing the first half of the term. Bibi Raheema, affiliated with PPP and daughter of Safar Khan, will represent during the second half of the term.

Arfana has been officially designated to represent the reserved women's seat in the Panjgur District Council. She is the daughter of Fahad, and she represents BNP(A).

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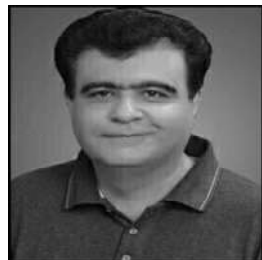
GB unrest

Away from the glare of mainstream media, trouble has been brewing in Gilgit-Baltistan in recent weeks. Demonstrations and counter-protests have been held in the mountainous region, with key thoroughfares blocked and mobile internet shut, as sectarian hatreds have returned to cast a long shadow over the area. According to reports, action was sought against a religious leader belonging to one school of thought, who had made a controversial statement last month. After protests in Chilas and elsewhere, a case was registered against the said cleric. This led to protests in Skardu and other towns, while allegedly derogatory remarks were made by another cleric, resulting in the filing of a case against this individual. Communal differences may only be a trigger for the protests, as there are several underlying factors in GB fuelling disaffection. However, the state's bulldozing of the Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023, through parliament has certainly breathed new life into sectarian discourses that were largely dormant. GB may only be the first area where narrow communalism is being revived, thanks to this debatable legislation, and unless democratic forces and enlightened clerics speak up, the fire of hatred may spread, especially to those spots in the country where sectarian tensions are already high.

There are signs that matters are improving, as the region's chief minister met both Shia and Sunni clerics, who have promised to maintain calm. The caretaker federal information minister has said the area is experiencing "peace and stability", while adding that the military had been called in only to maintain peace during Chehnum. Though GB has witnessed sporadic sectarian violence over the past several decades, matters, over the past few years, had been improving where inter-communal relations are concerned. Therefore, the local administration, as well as clerics from both sects, need to support efforts for peace-building and shunning those who promote divisive agendas.

In particular, hate groups must not be allowed to spread their toxic views in an effort to fan communal flames. But beyond GB, unless the bill in question, specifically the amendments to the blasphemy law, is reconsidered, it will only add to extremism and widen fault lines in society. As this paper has argued before, blasphemy cannot be condoned, and all religious figures should be respected. But bringing complicated theological and historical issues before parliament — which are better addressed by subject specialists and scholars of the highest calibre — and then rushing them through without any debate will only add to divisions in the country.

Such sensitive issues should not be codified in law in such a haphazard manner. For over four decades, Pakistan has been reeling from the effects of terrifying sectarian violence. To prevent the misuse of blasphemy laws, and the violence this begets, the amendments need to be rethought.



Dr Niaz Murtaza

In 2019, I wrote, under the same title, a column on whether Nawaz Sharif was a political prisoner under the then PTI-establishment hybrid regime. Events since then have shown the weak basis of his convictions. But such is the merry-go-round of politics that I must now write to see whether Imran Khan today is a political prisoner under the PDM-establishment-caretaker hybrid regime. Ironically, PTM leaders may be perpetual political prisoners under all hybrid regimes given their unwillingness to compromise on their principles and strike a deal.

The Council of Europe defines political prisoners as those jailed by rulers via unfair trials due to political enmity, eg. M. K. Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. It may seem odd to call our flawed politicians so. However, credible sources labelled lesser mortals like Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Malaysia's Anwar Ibrahim so too. Stature and perceived dishonesty matter not under global definitions, but only whether a person is being punished due to political reasons via dubious means. Many say Nawaz Sharif had disputes with the security establishment on ties with India and jihadis, which is cited as a reason behind his dubious disqualification. Many say Imran Khan, too, irked the establishment on appointments and governance, which resulted in the end of its political support for him, leading to his fall. Some

say the frictions between Sharif and the establishment related to foreign and security blunders, while those with Khan related to his mercurial actions. But even such pundits feel that Khan's legal woes relate more to his fallout with the establishment than the weight of his alleged crimes. Like Sharif, he, too, has been disqualified for mis-declaring his assets. With Sharif, the guilty verdict was deemed dubious as it related to receivable assets which are treated as such only under accrual accounting but not under the equally legal cash accounting system. With Khan, the verdict may be correct as he did mis-declare some gift assets. Still, many find the punishment (disqualification and incarceration) very harsh, as the mis-declaration hid no major crime; they feel that a fine would have been enough punishment.

Many also highlight process issues during the trial even though they may not change the final verdict. Oddly, online research suggests that Pakistan and Thailand are perhaps the only states that disqualify and jail politicians for an asset mis-declaration even if it hides no major crime. It is hoped that these issues will be considered at appeal stage.

Some other cases against Khan seem weak too. The cipher case charges him with leaking official secrets. Diplomatic ciphers are all categorised as secret documents but many, perhaps most, don't necessarily carry major secrets whose deliberate leakage can harm Pakistan and benefit its enemies. One may argue, in fact, that its reported contents show the haughty ways in which US treats us. The question arises in rational minds whether

a person can be tried for leaking state secrets when actually no secret was leaked and there was no harm done. To many, it seems like a politically motivated trial. True, just as rational minds question the strength of the state's cipher case against Khan, they question the strength of his cipher US conspiracy story too. But even so, that is a political rather than legal issue.

Accusations that the May 9 mayhem aimed to cause a mutiny seem farfetched too to many. How could admittedly condemnable street protests cause a rebellion within, even in Lahore, let alone nationally? Many say it was a law and order issue and those engaging in serious crimes like arson and assault must be tried through civilian courts for those specific crimes, while those guilty of lesser crimes like trespassing can be fined. But there seems little justification for cases in military courts. Thus, today, the leaders of both the largest political parties stand dubiously disqualified from politics for irking the establishment. Scores of PTI workers are languishing unfairly in jail.

While the fortunes of these larger parties fluctuate depending on whether they are the establishment's ladla or pet child, or not at any given time, other leftist activists like Ali Wazir and Imaan Mazari remain permanent sautelas (stepchildren). The only temporary and partial respite they get is when the powers that be are distracted enough to clamp down on the increasingly frequent rebellion by a former right-wing favourite. Thus, it appears to many that Pakistan's justice system is being manoeuvred to commit injustices against political opponents rather than delivering justice to the people. --

Courtesy Dawn

Darkness to light



Mohammad Ali Babakhel

Growing violence on educational campuses has debunked the myth that extremism is somehow confined to religious seminaries. It is true that, along with other factors, a lack of education is a potential driver for radicalisation. However, education is also one of the most effective mediums for extremists to penetrate youthful minds. Repeated incidents in our educational spaces reflect the disquieting fact that they are now confronted with both physical and psychological insecurity.

After the Brussels attacks of 2016, radicalisation in schools has become a priority area for policymakers and educators. Tackling violent extremism (VE) through interventions in education is part of a broader shift towards countering extremism with efforts that address environments favourable for the spread of hateful ideologies. Through such interventions, schools are expected to create a secure environment for their students, promote tolerance and social inclusion, discourage discrimination, and prevent violence.

Building the faculty's capacity to resolve conflicts and understand the push and pull factors leading to VE is equally important. At school, young people should be taught how to tackle polarisation and respect diversity. Children should be introduced to logic, critical thinking, problem-solving and negotiation skills. Empowering students to think critically, teaching them to

challenge ideas, construct rational thoughts, and engage in meaningful debate proves helpful in preventing violent extremism (PVE). A few societies have focused their activities on the psycho-social theory of Fathali M. Moghaddam in The Staircase to Terrorism. This explores psychological factors that lead an individual to commit a terrorist act. Among the factors are the psychological injustice of material conditions, perceived options to fight unfair treatment, displacement and aggression, moral engagement and polarisation. To apprehend any adverse situation, training teachers to detect early signs of radicalisation is critical. However, for their best interests, teachers should not be viewed as informants, which can undermine their relations with students' families and their community. Community engagement in children's education and building trust between schools and communities should be clear aims of counter violent extremism (CVE) programmes.

Teachers should be on the front line of teaching students how to save themselves from extremists' influence. Discussion meetings between parents, teachers, psychologists, and social workers on the role of psychosocial services for students and breaking of taboos in the individual-psychologist relationship are important. Reintegration of children from conflict areas through special educational programmes delivered via public schools is another neglected area that requires the policymakers' attention. While dealing with P/CVE, teachers should be equipped to raise students' awareness of the risks of extremism and encourage critical thinking. They should educate students about democratic values, and political, religious and ethnic tolerance. They must create a safe environ-

ment for dialogue about controversial topics in class. Ideally, teachers should also provide alternative narratives to extremist propaganda, and teach students how to build a safe online culture. Social media provides a fertile ground for extremists to recruit new talent. Teachers should be aware of online platforms used by young people and their potential dangers. They should have knowledge about the threats on the internet, especially when it comes to the recruitment of young people by extremists, and about how extremists disseminate propaganda online. They should educate students about the dynamics of hate speech and fake news, as students may be unaware of the messages behind provocative content that is being disseminated in virtual spaces. If a student disseminates extremist ideologies and distributes hate material among classmates, educationists should be trained on how to deal with such situations. They should be trained on how to work with parents, social services, and police. Responding to the threat of extremism warrants the creation of an appropriate classroom atmosphere and a democratic school culture. Students should be trained on how to identify bias, and teachers should provide a safe space where students feel comfortable expressing their opinions. Our teachers can perform an immense national service if they help students enhance their awareness and build resilience against radicalisation. Knowing how to identify and respond to signs of radicalisation, engaging constructively in conflict resolution, and facilitating communication can help many vulnerable souls make the journey from darkness to light. --

Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Ensuring ease of doing business govt's top priority: Sami Saeed

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Caretaker Minister of Planning, Development & Special Initiatives, Muhammad Sami Saeed reiterated that the caretaker government was committed to providing avenues for the ease of doing business in the country while directing the relevant ministries to play their effective role in the implementation.

The minister made these remarks while chairing a "Sub-Committee on Proposed Law of Pakistan Business Portal" to promote the ease of doing business in the country, said a press release issued here.

The meeting was

attended by the Secretary Ministry of Finance, Secretary Board of Investment (BOI), Joint Secretary Ministry of Commerce, Senior Joint Secretary Power Division and representatives from the Law Division were also present at the occasion. The digitalization of regulatory bodies for the ease of doing business was the priority of the government, said the minister while directing the relevant ministries to ensure the complete facilitation for the ease of doing business in the country.

It is noted that the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) was set up to bring foreign

direct investment to revive the country's economy which envisages capitalising Pakistan's untapped potential in key sectors which include defence production, agricultural and livestock, minerals and mining, information technology and energy.

During the meeting, the BOI gave a detailed briefing while highlighting the key features of the proposed law. The proposed law provides a legal mandate for establishing a registry to map regulations prescribed by government departments and then empirically assess the need for these regulations

through global best practices necessary to attract, realize, and retain investments with an aim to eliminate unnecessary regulations, simplify and automate cumbersome procedures.

The BOI representatives informed the meeting that the implementation of this law will have several benefits for the economy, including increased investment, job creation, and economic growth. It will also help improve our competitiveness in the global market and attract foreign investors who are looking for a stable and predictable regulatory environment.

Minister Saif says top priority being accorded to solve IT sector problems

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information Technology and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif on Tuesday said addressing the issues faced by mobile manufacturers and the IT sector was the topmost priority of the government.

"For the coming months would witness substantial progress in the IT and Telecom sector" the minister, in a statement on the officially X (formerly twitter) handle, said.

Dr Umar Saif expressed the government's resolve to encourage and promote the manufacturing of affordable and high-quality mobile phones in Pakistan. He said local manufacturing would help reduce reliance on mobile phone imports, curbing the outflow of foreign exchange.

crucial priority for both businesses and communities.

Under the Next Generation Optic Fiber (NG-OF) Network and Services programme, he said, the USF had made significant strides, contracting over 16,000 km of Optic Fiber Cable (OFC), which was expected to benefit approximately 31.5 million people nationwide.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chaired a meeting regarding the Ministry of Commerce.



QUETTA: A delegation of Balochistan Women Business Forum led by its President Faiza Mengal meeting with Balochistan Governor Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar.

Govt plans to enhance citrus production: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Caretaker Minister for Agriculture, Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skill Development SM Tanveer on Tuesday said that the government was mapping out a comprehensive strategy to enhance citrus production according to international standard in addition to addressing the issues relating to citrus seed, nursery, diseases and pest management for fetching precious foreign exchange for Pakistan after meeting local demands.

He was presiding over a meeting on citrus at University of Agriculture,

Faisalabad (UAF) here on Tuesday. He said that sustainable agricultural development was the top priority of the government. He said that citrus action plan committee led by Vice Chancellor UAF Prof Dr Iqbal Ahmad Khan was constituted to address the citrus issues. The minister said that agricultural experts, academia, industry and policy makers had to make joint efforts to achieve food security. "Our agricultural institutions are making great efforts to meet the agricultural needs of the ever-growing population because being an agrarian.

PSX witnesses bearish trend, sheds 215.94 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed a bearish trend on Tuesday as it lost 394.77 points and closed at 45,491.48 points against 45,707.42 of the previous trading day, showing a decline of 0.47 per cent.

A total of 55,028,384 shares were traded during the day as compared to the last day's 139,251,269, whereas the trading value of shares was recorded at Rs3.047 billion against Rs4.476 billion on the last trading day. As many as 296 companies transacted their shares in the stock market.

Rs 77.8 bln projects for remote areas connectivity to be completed by year end

ISLAMABAD (APP): To provide connectivity to remote and unserved areas across the country 83 projects worth Rs 77.8 billion would be completed by December 2023 under the Universal Service Fund (USF).

The official of the IT ministry said the primary objective of the USF was to connect all citizens of the country, as digitalization had become a

Comprehensive strategy rolled out for economic uplift: Minister

FAISALABAD (APP): Caretaker setup has rolled out a comprehensive strategy for economic uplift which is expected to yield positive results, said SM Tanveer, Provincial Minister for Agriculture, Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment and Skill Development.

Addressing the business community in Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been

working hard with a focused approach on five major potential areas to give a turn around to the economy within a shortest possible time. He said that agriculture, IT, exports, electricity and minerals were untapped sectors which could play a major role in stabilizing the national economy. He said that despite time constraints, caretakers were formulating policies to get the sustained results beyond their tenure. He said that agriculture was the

backbone of national economy which remained neglected during the previous many decades. He quoted a meeting with 125 leading scientists, adding that they disclosed that not even a single seed had been approved during the last 15 years. He said that the cotton with staple length of 27-28 mm had stuck up the research. However he directed that seed already evolved might be released immediately while efforts could be made to develop new seed with staple length of 28 mm.

Wheat import reduces 100 % in 1st month of FY2023-24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The import of wheat into the country during the first month of the current financial year decreased by 100 percent as compared to the corresponding month of last year. During the month of July 2023, wheat import into the country remained zero as compared to the imports of 211,597 metric tons valuing \$107.142 million

in the same month of last financial year, according to the data of Pakistan Bureau of Statistics. Meanwhile, the imports of edible oil including palm and soybean into the country during the first months of the current financial year decreased by 5.40 percent and 6.82 percent respectively as compared to the imports of the same month of the last year.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Three ships namely, MSC Denise, America and Lisa, carrying Containers, berthed at Qasim International Container Terminal on Monday. Meanwhile, an oil tanker TTC Vidyut carrying 57,749 tonnes of Gas oil also arrived at the outer anchorage of the port on Tuesday morning. A total of nine ships were engaged at POA berths during the last 24 hours, out of them.



September 6: A day of national pride in Pakistan's military history



On September 6, 1965, Pakistan faced a grave challenge to the sovereignty and integrity, which the nation and its valiant armed forces met with great courage and determination, defeating the sinister designs of much-larger enemy – India.

Since then, the nation has been observing the Defence Day every year with great zeal, seeking Allah Almighty's blessing and support for the country's integrity, prosperity and independence.

The day is commemorated to revive the national spirit and renew the pledge of defending the country against all sorts of threats, paying homage to the sons and daughters of the soil who laid down their lives and endured the vagaries of war in defending the motherland.

Fifty-five years back, it was the first full-fledged war with India after a clash in 1947-48 on the core issue of Kashmir, which unfortunately still remained unresolved even after the passage of more than 70 years, besides becoming a nuclear war flashpoint. Later, the two armies also fought in 1971 and 1999 and remained eyeball-to-eyeball several times.

The latest episode took place in February, 2019 when Indian aircraft intruded Pakistani airspace after the Pulwama incident, whom the Pakistan Air Force gave a befitting reply by gunning down its two fighter jets and arresting a pilot.

Initially, the Indian forces intruded Pakistani area in the Rann of Kutch in April 1965, whom was ejected in a sharp and short conflict. Both the armies had fully mobilized, with eyeball-to-eyeball contact. Pakistan proposed cease-fire, India accepted, following which an agreement was signed and the forces were disengaged.

Past midnight on September 5-6, without a formal declaration of war, Indian army crossed the international border and attacked Lahore and Kasur fronts. Pakistan Army and Air Force halted the attack in its tracks, inflicting heavy casualties on the aggressor. On September 7, a single Pakistan Air Force (PAF) Pilot, Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam, Sitara-i-Juraat, in his F-86 Sabre, shot down five Indian Air Force (IAF) attacking Hunter aircraft in a single sortie, an unbeaten world record till date.

On September 6-7

night, three teams of Pakistan's Special Services Groups were parachuted on the IAF bases at Pathankot, Adampur and Halwara to neutralize them.

To relieve pressure on Lahore front, on September 7-8 night, after crossing two major water obstacles in a bold thrust, Pakistan's armoured and mechanized formations supported by artillery and PAF overran area Khem Karn, six to eight miles inside Indian territory. Vital Indian positions at Sulemanki and across Rajasthan and Sindh were also captured in bold and swift attacks.

On the same night, one Corps of Indian Army launched its main effort east of Sialkot with one armoured and three infantry divisions on Pakistan's extended 15 Division front, screened only by gallant 3 Frontier Force and B Company 13 Frontier Force (Reconnaissance & Support). The 24 Infantry Brigade, led by Brigadier A.A. Malik, Hilal-i-Juraat, which was on the move in area Pasur, rushed 25 Cavalry under Lieutenant Colonel Nisar Ahmad, Sitara-i-Juraat, on 8 September to delay and disrupt enemy thrusts.

As soon as the pres-

ence of India's one Armoured Division was confirmed, Pakistan Army rushed forward to stop the onslaught on a 30-mile front. The biggest tank battle since World War-II was fought on the Chawinda front by 6 Armoured Division, under command 24 Infantry Brigade Groups and valiantly supported by 4 Corps Artillery led by Brigadier A.A.K. Choudhry, Hilal-i-Juraat.

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) support helped turn the tide of the battle. Before a counter offensive by 6 Armoured Division on 22 September could be launched, India asked for cease-fire in the United Nations. India's aggression against Pakistan's international borders without a formal declaration of war, had cost it, apart from heavy personnel, material and

extraordinary role in defending the Lahore Bedian area in 1965.

Where the country's armed forces proved their mettle, despite being short in number and having limited resources, the whole nation stood by them shoulder-to-shoulder in thwarting the attack.

otic songs to defend the motherland. Some of the evergreen heart-warming national songs include "Aye Watan Key Sajeelay Jawano, Ae Mard e Mujahid Jaag Zara, A Putter Hatan Tey Nai Wekday, Ae Rahe Haq Key Shaheedo", "Mere Dhool Sipahayya", Rang Laye Ga Shaheedon Ka

Pakistan armed forces were fighting a war to defend the territorial integrity of the country against a formidable enemy. They did defend the country in a befitting manner. When the war ended Lahore and Sialkot were far away from the reach of the enemy. The enemy suffered heavy losses in terms of military hardware.



economic losses, 1617 square miles of territory as compared to 446 square miles of Pakistan's open and undefended territory. Many of our martyred national heroes were given awards for their gallantry and bravery. The highest military award of Nishan-i-Haider was awarded to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, for his

Pakistan's artists including Mehdi Hassan, Alam Lohar, Noor Jehan, Saleem Raza and others also played their part and made the whole nation realized that Pakistanis as a nation would not be ill-willed by the designs of adversary. They warmed the hearts and souls of armed forces personnel and civilians with patri-

Laho, Yeh Hawaon Key Musafir, Umeed-e-Fatah Rakho, Apni Jaan Nazar Karoon, Ab Fatah-e-Mubeen Hai, Khitta-e-Lahore Tere Jaan Nisaaron Ko Salaam, Hum Haidery Hain, Toheed Key Matwalon and Jung Khed Nahi Hundi Zaniyaan Di."— APP feature

Defence Day: For honour and inspiration



By Arif Iftikhar

Very often we take for granted our freedoms as citizens of an independent country and the peaceful surroundings of our city and other places in Pakistan that we visit. This freedom and peace is ensured by the military and security agencies that work round the clock to protect our country from foreign and other kinds of domestic threats. Their role is to work for the defence and security of the country under the guidance of the civilian government; and their personnel make great sacrifices, if necessary, in the course of their duty.

The contributions of the defence services provided by our military forces are marked by the annual celebration of the national Defence Day in our country.

Defence and security of the country under the guidance of the civilian government; and their personnel make great sacrifices, if necessary, in the course of their duty.

The contributions of the defence services provided by our military forces are marked by the annual celebration of the national Defence Day in our country. Defence Day, as the name suggests, commemorates the day when our national armed forces successfully defended the attack of Indian forces on our country in the 1965 war. It is a tribute to our armed forces and all the martyrs of the war. It is celebrated on September 6 each year. The enemy attacked

our borders on September 6, 1965, with a view to invade the attacked areas. It was a reaction to stop the advance of Pakistani military in India Occupied Kashmir. They mainly attacked the regions of Lahore, Sialkot and the desert areas of Sindh. The battle lasted till September 22, 1965, when both sides accepted the United Nations-administered ceasefire.

Our military was successful in defending not only the areas attacked but also in protecting the lives of thousands of civilians and their homes. As such, we owe a duty to honour and respect all the military personnel of our country who gave up their lives so that we, our relatives and our fellow countrymen could live peacefully. This respect and honour should also extend to all those military personnel who supported our martyrs, risked their lives and lived to tell the tale.

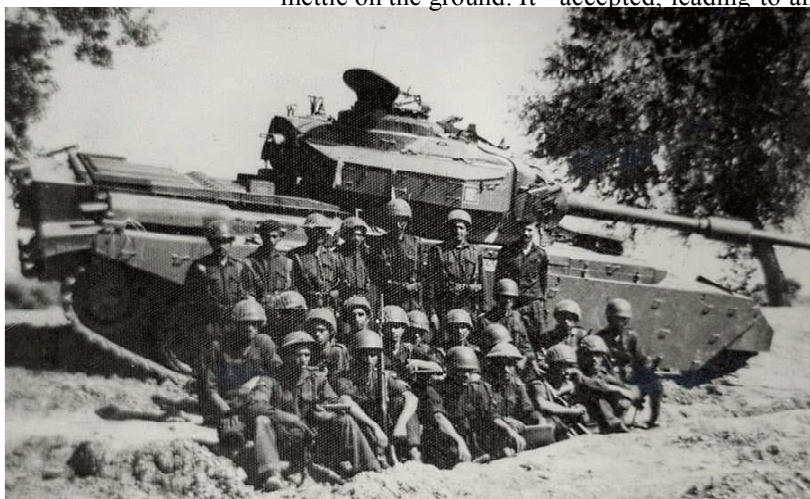
Many of our martyred national heroes were given awards for their gallantry and bravery. The highest military award of Nishan-i-Haider was awarded to Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, for his extraordinary role in defending the Lahore Bedian area in 1965.

He is among a handful of other gallant and brave military personnel who were martyred and awarded the same award in other battles and wars. They gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in the defence of Pakistan.

Defence Day – Manifesting an indomitable resolve against aggression

By Ali Jabir

ISLAMABAD : The valiant nations always rise to the call of duty by emerging stronger and resolutely to demonstrate unwavering re-



solve and determination to defend their homeland and honor.

Whether it is internal strife or foreign aggression, these nations exhibit unyielding courage with their valiant fighters even laying down their lives for the independence, sovereignty and well-being of their people.

Such a day was experienced by the Pakistani nation on September 6, 1965, when its neighbouring enemy India imposed unwanted aggression ambushing in the darkness of night with an ambition to kneel down its people.

But our valiant armed forces, backed by the nation's courage and determination, defended the motherland's sovereignty and integ-

riety with unparalleled valor.

From the initial clashes along the Eastern Border to the full-fledged war, Pakistan embarked on a path of glory that showcased its mettle on the ground. It

tority occurred in April 1965 in the Rann of Kutch. Pakistan forcefully ejected them, with both sides fully mobilized, standing face-to-face. Pakistan proposed a ceasefire, which India accepted, leading to an

agreement and the disengagement of forces. However, the situation escalated on the night of September 5-6 when the Indian army, without a formal declaration of war, crossed the international border, launching attacks on the Lahore and Kasur fronts. Pakistan's Army and Air Force halted the offensive, inflicting significant casualties on the aggressor.

On September 7, Squadron Leader Muhammad Mahmood Alam, a PAF pilot, achieved an unmatched feat by shooting down five Indian Air Force Hunter aircraft in a single sortie. Pakistan's Special Services Groups executed para-drops on Indian Air Force bases at Pathankot, Adampur

and Halwara on the same night to neutralize them. To relieve pressure on the Lahore front, Pakistan's armoured and mechanized units, backed by artillery and the PAF, swiftly overran the Khem Karn area, penetrating six to eight miles into Indian territory. Key Indian positions in Sulemanki and across Rajasthan and Sindh were captured in bold and rapid offensives.

Simultaneously, an Indian Army Corps launched a major thrust east of Sialkot with armoured and infantry divisions, supported by gallant 3 Frontier Force and B Company 13 Frontier Force (Reconnaissance & Support). This prompted a swift response from Pakistan, with a 30-mile front established to halt the enemy's advance. The Chawinda front witnessed the largest tank battle since World War

II, led by 6 Armored Division, valiantly supported by 24 Infantry Brigade Groups and 4 Corps Artillery.

The Pakistan Air Force played a crucial role in turning the tide of battle. Before a counter-offensive by the 6 Armoured Division on September 22, India requested a ceasefire through the United Nations.

India's aggression, without a formal declaration of war, came at a significant cost, resulting in heavy personnel, material and economic losses, along with the loss of 1617 square miles of territory compared to 446 square miles of Pakistan's open and undefended land.

Many of Pakistan's martyrs received awards for their gallantry and bravery, including Major Raja Aziz Bhatti, who was posthumously awarded the highest military honor, Nishan-i-Haider, for his



exceptional role in defending Lahore at Bedian.

While the armed forces showcased their mettle, the entire nation stood shoulder-to-shoulder, united against the enemy's aggression. Pakistani artists, including Mehdi Hassan, Alam Lohar, Noor Jehan, Saleem Raza and others, played a vital

role in boosting morale with patriotic songs, fostering a sense of unity and resilience.

The enemy had suffered a resounding defeat with our forces silencing India's reckless territorial ambitions and ill-will towards Pakistan.

"The victory in the 1965 war was made possible by the national spirit and unity that must always be remembered and upheld," stated Lieutenant General (Retd) Amjad Shoaib.

"On this day the whole nation especially people from Lahore, Sialkot and other border areas demonstrated unique unity," he added.

Other defence analysts also underline the importance of this day and call on the nation to always emulate the spirit and determination of that historic day.

"India had been re-

lently seeking to destroy Pakistan since its inception, but it is our unity as a nation that foiled all bids of our enemy," remarked Lieutenant General (Retd) Ghulam Mustafa.

Brigadier (Retd) Mahmood Shah has also reiterated that Pakistan's victory in the 1965 war was due to national unity and the heroic performance of its armed forces.

"This unity and determination must continue to be the pillars of Pakistan's defense and progress in the years to come."

This Sunday, once again the nation will stand united to renew its vigor and enthusiasm, sending a clear message to hostile neighbours that Pakistan remains prepared and determined to thwart any threats to its sovereignty and integrity.—APP Feature

Pak, Turkiye reiterate resolve to strengthen bilateral cooperation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and Turkiye on Tuesday reiterated their resolve to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in diverse areas for the mutual benefit of the two brotherly countries.

This bilateral ties were discussed in a meeting between President Dr Arif Alvi and the visiting Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces, Admiral Ercument Tatlioglu, who along with his delegation called on the president at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The meeting was also attended by Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi, Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci, and government officials of both sides.

Welcoming the Commander of Turkish Naval Forces, the president said

that both countries enjoyed excellent relations which were based on common religion, historical bonds, besides having similar stance on various issues.

He emphasised the need to further improve bilateral cooperation in diverse areas, including the maritime and defence cooperation.

President Alvi recalled his visit to Turkiye in August 2021 to participate in the launching ceremony of the first of the four MILGEM corvettes for Pakistan Navy.

He lauded the regular participation of the navies of the two brotherly countries in bilateral and multi-lateral exercises, adding that the close naval cooperation was a manifestation of strong relations between Pakistan and Turkiye.

During the meeting, the president highlighted

the atrocities being committed by the Indian security forces against the Muslims in the Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), besides expressing concern over persecution of minorities in India.

He stressed that the international community should take notice of the human rights abuses in IIOJK as well as the persecution of minorities in India.

The president appreciated the Turkish support to Pakistan's principled stance on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Speaking on the occasion, Commander of the Turkish Naval Forces said that cooperation between the two countries would grow further, adding that his visit would prove beneficial in further cementing bilateral defence relations between Pakistan and Turkey.



KARACHI: Italian Navy Ship FRANCESCO MOROSINI arrive at KPT for participating bilateral exercise with Pakistan Navy, in Karachi.

Pakistan keen to promote cooperation with Iran in fields of media, film: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Tuesday that Pakistan was keen to promote cooperation with Iran in the fields of media, film and drama.

During a meeting with Iranian Ambassador Reza Amiri Moghaddam, who called on him here, the minister said, "Cooperation between the two countries in the fields of media is the need of the hour."

The minister and the ambassador discussed issues of mutual interest, fraternal relations between the two countries and promotion of cooperation in the field of media.

"Cooperation be-

tween the two countries in the field of media is indispensable," Murtaza Solangi said.

A memorandum of understanding had already been signed between the Associated Press of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), while many other agreements were under process to enhance cooperation between television, films, cinema, literary and linguistic institutions, he maintained.

These agreements, he said, would help project real culture and traditions of the two brotherly countries.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen and expand bilateral coopera-

tion in various fields, including economic, commercial, cultural and tourism sectors, besides people-to-people contacts.

The Iranian ambassador congratulated Murtaza Solangi on assuming charge as caretaker minister for information and broadcasting.

Pakistan highly valued brotherly relations with Iran, Murtaza Solangi said, adding both the countries were bound by deep religious, cultural and linguistic ties.

The governments of two countries were promoting close cooperation for the betterment of their people and socio-economic development, he said.

Pakistan's request to Iran to overcome the shortage of medicines

ISLAMABAD (Online): Ambassador of Islamic Republic of Iran to Pakistan Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam met Federal Minister of Health Dr. Nadeem Jan.

Dr. Nadeem Jan welcomed the Iranian Ambassador and expressed his determination to further strengthen the relationship.

The Iranian envoy said that he wishes the supervisor good wishes and success in assuming the portfolio of health. The appointment of a world-renowned health expert like you will significantly improve the health sector.

Iran wants to invest from Pakistan in the field of medicines. Nadeem Jan, the Federal Minister of Health, said that Pakistan and Iran have deep ceremonies and strong relations spanning centuries.

Health security is our top agenda. We will ensure effective and coordinated measures to deal with cross-border epidemics. It has also been agreed to further increase cooperation in research and technical assistance in the health sector.



ISLAMABAD: Mr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan called on Caretaker Federal Minister for National Health Services Regulations and Coordination, Dr. Nadeem Jan at his office.

Elections will be held in January or February, claims Azam Nazir Tarar

ISLAMABAD (Online): Senator Azam Nazir Tarar said that courts are independent in country.

All works is being done according to constitution and law. Elections will be held in January or February. While talking to media in Supreme Court Lahore Registry, Azam Nazir Tarar further said that sometimes courts make decisions by going beyond

law. We admit that law gives the right to a military trial for those who attack military installations.

He further said that he further said that work is being done on constituencies and it is necessary.

Azam Nazir Tarar further said that there is a need to have a dialogue on inflation in the country and political stability can lead to economic stability.

Final date about return of Nawaz to Pak: Nawaz, Shehbaz make consultation

LONDON (Online): PML-N supreme Nawaz Sharif and former Prime Minister (PM) Shehbaz Sharif have made consultations on the final date about return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan in a meeting.

Shehbaz Sharif is likely to announce date regarding return of Nawaz Sharif soon. On the other hand consultations are underway among party leaders in connection with announcement of final date with reference to return of Nawaz Sharif to Pakistan.

An important meeting of PML-N will be convened ahead of announcement about final date. During the meeting telephonic contacts will be made with PML-N leaders available in Pakistan. Sources said Nawaz Sharif will get final opinion from party leaders about date for his return to Pakistan. Before his return to Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif will stay in a Gulf country. He will travel by airline of Gulf country due to lack of direct flight from London to Lahore.



ISLAMABAD: Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Andrei Rudenko and Russian President's Special Representative on Afghanistan Mr. Zamir Kablov with Pakistan's Ambassador to Russian Federation Mr. Shafiqat Ali Khan on completion of his tenure in Moscow.

Pak-China year of tourism 2023 to promote country's tourism industry: Minister

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Minister of State for Tourism Syed Wasi Shah Tuesday said that Pakistan and China Year of Tourism celebrations 2023 would pave the way to further enhance the journey to promote the country's tourism industry.

Addressing a ceremony of Pakistan and China Year of Tourism-2023 organized by Pakistan-China friendship association of Khyber in collaboration with Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC), the minister said the friendship of Pakistan with the brotherly nation of China was stronger than mountains, deeper than oceans and sweeter than honey, whereas Pakistan welcomed its Chinese friends to invest with open arms in the country.

Shah said that China, a land of ancient traditions and modern marvels has long been a fascination for travelers around the world. "With a population exceeding 1.4 billion, in recent years, Chinese citizens have demonstrated an increasing appetite for travel, both domestically and abroad," he added.

He apprised the participants that before the global pandemic, China's outbound tourists spent more than 255 billion dollars on tourism. It showed the enthusiasm of the Chinese people for exploring the world. The Minister informed that in 2019, more than 155 million Chinese tourists travelled overseas, contributing significantly to the economies of host countries. "We have an opportunity to tap into this global wanderlust and make Pakistan a must-visit destination on their travel itineraries." Wasi Shah said that Pakistan has rich cultural and religious sites, breathtaking natural beauty, glorious history and massive Buddhist heritage.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting on Pakistan International Airlines.

Through efforts US and Pakistan brought their ties back on 'even keel': Masood Khan

WASHINGTON (APP): Pakistan and the United States have succeeded in developing and retaining their cooperation in the realm of security and expansion of economic ties following intense efforts over the past two years, Ambassador Masood Khan has said.

Speaking at Global Santa Fe, a think-tank of the US state of New Mexico, he said although the Biden administration has withdrawn its troops from

Solangi grieved over demise of father of senior journalist

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi on Tuesday expressed grief and sorrow over the demise of the father of senior journalist Imdad Soomro.

The minister, in a condolence message, prayed to the Almighty to rest the departed soul in eternal peace and grant courage to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss with fortitude.

He sympathized with the bereaved family over their loss.

Speaker GB Legislative Assembly calls on NA Speaker

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker Gilgit-Baltistan Legislative Assembly Nazir Ahmed here on Tuesday calls on National Assembly Speaker Raja Pervez Ashraf in Parliament House.

Raja Pervez Ashraf said that Gilgit Baltistan (GB) was blessed with unmatched natural sceneries which rendered the region a potentially great destination, said a news release.

He also assured all legislative and administrative support to newly established Gilgit Baltistan Assembly.

The speaker also said that supporting staff and

members of GB legislative Assembly would be provided training in Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services (PIPS) the enhance their professional capacity.

He also said that peace in GB was essential for progress and development of the region.

The speaker GB Legislative Assembly appreciated cooperation extended by the Speaker National Assembly.

He also said that members and supporting staff would benefit professional from legislative and administrative experience of senior and seasoned staff of the National Assembly and PIPS.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker Gilgit Baltistan Assembly Nazir Ahmed called on Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf at Parliament House.

AC wraps up Babar Awan bail petition in 190 m pounds scandal

ISLAMABAD (Online): Accountability Court (AC) has disposed of PTI leader and lawyer Babar Awan bail petition in 190 million pounds scandal in the light of investigation officer statement.

People ran away after devaluing Rs 1100 billion. We are being accused of devaluing money. I gave statement in NAB office. I gave reply.

NAB saying this if there is no warrant then this is no reply. If it is so then please confirm my bail. NAB too knows what reply I have given I gave correct reply.

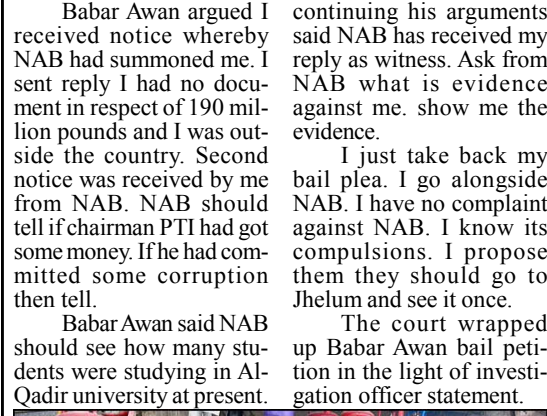
NAB prosecutor said Babar Awan was summoned as a witness. His arrest warrants have not been issued so far.

The statement of investigation officer Mian Umar Nadim was filed in the court.

Babar Awan while continuing his arguments said NAB has received my reply as witness. Ask from NAB what is evidence against me. show me the evidence.

I just take back my bail plea. I go alongside NAB. I have no complaint against NAB. I know its compulsions. I propose them they should go to Jhelum and see it once.

The court wrapped up Babar Awan bail petition in the light of investigation officer statement.



HYDERABAD: People filling their LPG gas cylinder from vendor at Bacha Khan Chowk.

Sino-Pak joint air exercise Shaheen-X commences in Northwest China

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Sino-Pak joint annual air exercise Shaheen-X has commenced in the Jiuchuan and Yinchuan cities of Northwest China. The Pakistan Air Force (PAF)'s lead fighter aircraft J-10 C and JF-17 are participating in the exercise along with air and ground crew.

The People's Liberation Army Air Force and Pakistan Air Force have been conducting Shaheen joint exercises since 2011 which are being hosted by both countries on an alternate basis, a PAF news release said.

The Shaheen exercise aims to enhance the aerial combat practices, operational readiness, promoting interoperability and creating synergy amongst the participating strategic and time-tested allies in the region.

Moreover, incorporation of features like hybrid warfare, cyberspace and computing in this air exercise would augment Pakistan Air Force's effectiveness in the dynamic and evolving landscape of modern warfare.



HYDERABAD: Members of Sohni Dharti Youth Council lit up the candles in memory of national heroes of 6th September in connection with Youm-E-Defa Pakistan outside press club.

Youngsters need to enhance skills to compete in market: VC KU

KARACHI (APP): Vice Chancellor of the University of Karachi Professor Dr Khalid Mahmood Iraqi on Tuesday said that our youngsters have to enhance their skills rather than only complaining regarding job shortages in the country.

The varsities are not responsible for awarding degrees only they have to focus on improving the skills of students so that they can prepare themselves for local and international markets, he said this while addressing the recruitment drive initiated by the KU Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization at the

Decision to give relief people from IPPs' money

ISLAMABAD (Online): It has been decided to give relief to the public with the money of IPPs, more than 15 billion of IPPs will be used to give relief in electricity bills.

According to the Ministry of Finance sources, a new plan for relief in electricity bills has been sent to the IMF by the Ministry of Finance.

More than 15 billion was earmarked for payments to IPPs for the current financial year, the additional amount allocated to IPPs can be adjusted to provide relief in electricity bills.

Extra amount allocated for IPPs can be adjusted to give relief in electricity bills.

According to sources in the Ministry of Finance, the officials of the Ministry of Finance will again discuss the new plan with the IMF.

Uzbekistan Embassy in Pak celebrates independence day

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Uzbekistan Embassy in Pakistan celebrated its Independence Day with a gathering of distinguished guests and diplomats.

Among the attendees were Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce & Industries and Productions Dr Gohar Ijaz, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in Islamabad Ambassador Otajan Mavlamov, senators, MPs, former federal ministers and secretaries, ambassadors, high commissioners, heads of international organizations, prominent experts, and journalists.

During the celebration, Ambassador Aybek Arif Usmanov expressed gratitude to President Dr Arif Alvi, the Government of Pakistan, Pakistan Army, Navy, and Air Force for their cooperation in strengthening connectivity between the two countries.