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COAS presides over 259th Corps Commanders' Conference

Top military brass resolves to defend country's sovereignty, territorial integrity

Participants resolve to assist in curbing illegal activities hampering economic growth; Forum pays tribute to sacrifices of the martyrs of armed forces; Emphasis need for speedy development of economic potential of Newly Merged Districts (NMDs) and Border Districts of Balochistan for sustainable peace and growth

RAWALPINDI (Online): General Syed Asim Munir, NI (M), Chief of Army Staff (COAS) presided over the 259th Corps Commanders' Conference (CCC) held at GHQ, today (Thursday). Forum paid rich trib-

ute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas including officers and men of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and Citizens who laid their lives for the safety, security and territorial integrity of the country.

Fateha was offered for the martyrs and it was reiterated that the State of Pakistan and Armed Forces will continue to hold the Shuhadas and their families in highest esteem, ever honoring them with utmost respect and dignity.

Commemoration of Defence and Martyrs Day on 6 September across the country by all segments of the society was appreciated for which the Armed Forces of Pakistan remain ever thankful to our proud nation.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of the Army Staff General Asim Munir presiding over 259th Corps Commanders' Conference.



KARACHI: Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister, Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar along with others participate in mourning processions in connection of 40th day Chehlum-e-Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A), grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), at M.A Jinnah road in Karachi.

Supreme Court

Departmental proceeding can be initiated against a govt employee within two years of retirement

ISLAMABAD (Online): Supreme Court (SC) has remarked departmental proceedings can be initiated against a government employee within two years of retirement.

Detailed decision was written by Justice Musarrat Hilali here Thursday.

It has been said in the decision that Muhammad Afzal Anjum Toor was appointed as executive engineer in Rawal dam division Islamabad. Irrigation department Punjab while initiating departmental proceeding issued show cause notice to the executive engineer after three years of his retirement, the accused was charged with misconduct and corruption.

The investigation team proposed in November 2020 that Rs 55 lakhs

be recovered from the pension of executive engineer. Tribunal while nullifying the departmental order in February 2022 ordered to pay pension and all privileges and perks.

The question before the court was this can departmental proceeding be initiated or otherwise against government employee after more than 3 years of retirement.

Under clause 21 of PEEDA act 2006 departmental proceedings can be initiated against the employee within two years of retirement.

SC has resolved principle in a decision that PEEDA laws are designed for ensuring good governance and achieving target of self-accountability in government employees.



ISLAMABAD: Saudi Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy called on the Caretaker Federal Health Minister Dr. Nadeem Jan.

15k buses needed for public transport, 1029 buses plying on roads in the city

KARACHI (APP): The World Bank report has revealed that a total of 15,000 buses are needed for the comprehensive transport system of Karachi while currently only 1029 buses are operational on city roads including 240 buses of People's Bus Service, 100 buses of BRT, and 689 old buses operated by private sector. Besides, work is in progress on route feasibility for the procurement of 500 more buses for the province.

The caretaker provincial minister of finance, revenue, and planning and development in Sindh Muhammad Younus Dagha was told these details by the officers of the Sindh transport department during a briefing on projects at his office in the Sindh sec-

retariat here, said a spokesperson on Thursday.

It was informed that in the light of the report of the World Bank, around 13000 more public transport buses were needed in Karachi to meet the gap.

During the briefing, the caretaker provincial minister Muhammad Younus Dagha directed that the private sector should be encouraged under public-private partnership projects to meet the huge gap in public transport for Karachi. The caretaker minister was informed that a plan to provide easy loans to local private transporters through the establishment of an endowment fund was under consideration by the transport department to bring forward the private sector and in this context.

PM Kakar to address UNGA session on Sept 22

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar will address the 78th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on September 22 (Friday), it was learnt on Thursday.

Kakar will also hold meetings with the heads of state of different countries. The PM will also attend the dinner hosted by the US President Joe Biden.

The general debate session will begin on September 19. Brazil will declare the session open.

President Biden will be the second head of state, who will address the General Assembly on September 19.

NEPRA okays increase in hydropower tariff

ISLAMABAD (INP): The National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) on Thursday approved the increase in tariff for hydropower electricity by 29 percent.

As per details, the average tariff for hydropower is set to increase from Rs 3.85 to Rs 4.96 per unit for 2022-23.

NEPRA also ordered the CPPA to conduct the capacity status of WAPDA hydropower stations.

The power regulatory authority directed that the capacity status should be conducted separately and the report of all the stations should be submitted to NEPRA.

Govt announces closure of markets at sunset

LAHORE (INP): The caretaker government has ordered measures to conserve energy, including closing all malls and markets at sunset to mitigate the effects of energy crisis.

A similar announcement was also made by the previous Shehbaz government regarding the closure of markets by 8pm across the country under the 'energy conservation plan'. On June 6, the former federal minister made the announcement while talking to journalists after a meeting of National Economic Council (NEC) chaired by then prime minister Shehbaz Sharif.

PM emphasizes joint efforts to purge society of intolerance, promote brotherhood

Directs measures to address issues confronting overseas Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday emphasized the need to make joint efforts to purge the society of intolerance and promote brotherhood.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Bohra Community headed by Shahzada Hussain Burhanuddin, said interfaith harmony was part of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's golden principles which was also the foundation of Pakistan as well as guiding light for the people.

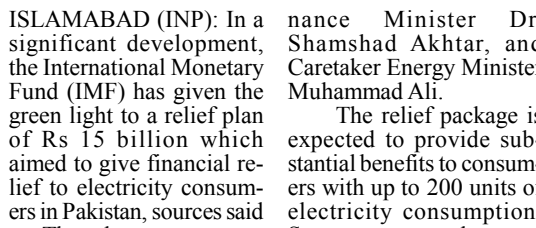
Hussain Burhanuddin conveyed the good wishes of his father and spiritual leader of Bohra Community Dr. Mufazzal Saidduddin for the prime minister.

The prime minister appreciated the Bohra Community's role in social welfare, education and economic sectors.

The delegation apprised the prime minister of Bohra Community's welfare projects particularly an under-construction cardiac hospital in Karachi.

The prime minister directed the authorities concerned to extend cooperation and all-out facilities to the Bohra Community.

Meanwhile Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday directed the authorities concerned to take all-out measures to resolve the problems being faced by the overseas Pakistanis.



ISLAMABAD: Muhammad Kamran Tessori, Governor of Sindh called on Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Caretaker Federal Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs & Privatization at Finance Division.

IMF 'approves' Rs. 15bn relief in electricity bills

ISLAMABAD (INP): In a significant development, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has given the green light to a relief plan of Rs 15 billion which aimed to give financial relief to electricity consumers in Pakistan, sources said on Thursday.

According to media reports, matter revealed that the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) played a pivotal role in securing this relief from the IMF, adding that the FBR has exceeded expectations by collecting an impressive amount of Rs 20 billion in excess taxes.

The IMF's decision to grant the relief of Rs15 billion - aimed at relieving the financial burden on electricity consumers - is a testament to the commendable performance of the FBR.

It underscores the tireless efforts of key figures in the caretaker government, including Caretaker Prime Minister Anwarul Haq Kakar, Caretaker Fi-

nance Minister Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, and Caretaker Energy Minister Muhammad Ali.

The relief package is expected to provide substantial benefits to consumers with up to 200 units of electricity consumption. Sources suggest that consumers falling within this category can anticipate relief ranging from Rs 3 to Rs 4 per unit on their electricity bills.

Furthermore, there will be provisions for delayed payments, ensuring that these consumers do not face penalties for late payments.

However, the IMF set a condition that the consumers exceeding 400 units of electricity consumption will not be eligible for this relief.

Sources claimed that the final approval for deferred payments and the relief package will be granted by the Federal Cabinet.

Caretaker CM Sindh says: Street crimes in city, kidnapping for ransom in Riverine area being curbed

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Sindh Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar has said that his government was taking strict measures to curb the menace of street crime in Karachi and kidnapping for ransom in the Riverine area.

"We are establishing the rule of law and nobody would be allowed to take the law in his hands."

This he said while talking to media at M.A Jinnah Road at Sea-breeze where he attended the Chehlum

procession. Minister Home Brig (retd) Haris Nawaz, IG Police Raja Riffat Mukhtar, Additional IG Police Khadim Rind, and others.

The caretaker CM said that all the abducted persons, except a few have been recovered. He added that the remaining kidnapees would be recovered shortly.

To a question, the caretaker CM said that the civilian government was taking measures to improve the economic situation of the country. He hoped that people would witness the improvement.

Justice Baqar said that the issue of street crime was being solved. He added that the home minister and IG police were taking strict measures to control the situation and its positive results would come out shortly.

To a question, the caretaker CM said that the civilian government was taking measures to improve the economic situation of the country. He hoped that people would witness the improvement.

Government rules out hike in prices of medicines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal government rules out any hike in the prices of medicines.

Pharma Industry wants increase forthwith in the prices of over 250 medicines and it is not possible to increase the prices of medicines immediately.

According to federal health ministry pharma industry wants enhancement in the prices of over 250 medicines but it is next to impossible to raise the prices of medicines immediately.

The authorities said that the shortage of medicines is a pretext to pressurize government for hiking prices of medicines.

All the medicines are earning profit to pharma industry except 8 to 10 medicines.

World Bank delegation calls on IT minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): World Bank delegation led by its Country Director for Pakistan, Najy Benhassine called on Caretaker Federal Minister for IT and Telecommunication Dr Umar Saif here on Thursday.

The minister welcomed the delegation on arrival at Ministry of IT and matters of bilateral interest and "Digital Economy Enhancement Project" were discussed. Dr. Umar Saif said that the project will be helpful in the provision of online services to the masses at one platform.

He said during the last few years both federation and provinces saw great work done regarding digitalization, but all the systems were not linked; now due to this project.

Saudi ambassador calls on Health Minister

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Nawaf Saeed Al Malkiy called on Federal Minister for Health Dr. Nadeem Jan to discuss issues of mutual interest and further enhancing bilateral cooperation.

The Saudi ambassador congratulated him on assuming portfolio of the Ministry of Health.

The appointment of Global Health Expert is a good omen. "I pray for your success," said the Saudi Ambassador.

The minister acknowledged and appreciated Saudi Arabia's deep commitment to Pakistan and the welfare of its people.

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia had historical and religious fraternal relations, he added.

In every hour of difficulty, Saudi Arabia has supported Pakistan. The hearts

of the people of both the countries beat in unison.

The minister elaborated his integrated agenda for development of the health sector as per the vision of the Caretaker Prime Minister.

He shared that Pakistan was the first country in the world to organize the Global Health Security Summit.

"We have formulated an integrated strategy to increase the export of the pharma industry," he added.

Effective measures were being taken to increase the capacity of pharma industry, the minister said.

It was agreed to promote medical tourism in this sector, which has vast potential for investment.

The recently established Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) is a good initiative. This initiative will promote investment in the country.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani called on caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar.

Senate committee for reinforcement of framework, implementation by KoFHA

KARACHI (APP): The Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs, on Thursday, directed Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA) for reinforcement of legal framework and strengthening the implementation of the given mandate for achieving the core objectives of the authority.

The chairperson of the standing committee Senator Rubina Khalid while presiding over the meeting, also directed the officials concerned to improve coordination with other relevant agencies working in the sector and ensure the implementation of minimum wages of workers set by the federal government. The meeting of the upper house committee was attended by members of the

committee Senator Abida Muhammad Azeem, Senator Nisar Ahmed Khuro, Senator Danesh Kumar, Senator Muhammad Akram and Senator Dost Muhammad Khan as well as Managing Director KoFHA Syed Masood Ahmed Rizvi and other officers of the authority. The committee was briefed on functions, performance, financial status and revenue generation, and issues being faced by KoFHA.

The chairperson and committee members expressing dissatisfaction with the performance of the authority noted that KoFHA had failed to exert its authority with regard to controlling unlicensed fishing activities in its jurisdiction.



KARACHI: Chairperson Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs Senator Rubina Khalid chairing a meeting to review performance of Korangi Fisheries Harbour Authority (KoFHA).

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Sugar prices

Sugar prices are a major political economy issue in Pakistan. Any small or large upward change in domestic sugar prices tends to trigger much noise in the media, with the government activating its administrative machinery to launch a 'crackdown' against sugar mill owners and traders to bring down retail rates.

Sometimes the judiciary also intervenes because of the massive public attention sugar prices draw, thanks to the political profile of most mill owners. A 'probe' is ordered, lengthy reports are prepared and recommendations formulated to 'reform' the sugar trade and keep prices in check. But nothing really changes.

The reason for the recurring 'sugar price crises' is well known: the government's involvement in the sugar economy to protect politically powerful large cane growers and factory owners. The solution is also obvious: withdrawal of the government from the market, and removal of restrictions on free import and export of the sweetener to let demand-and-supply forces take their own course.

However, no government — civil or military — has shown enough political will to implement the solution for fear of losing the support of large growers and wealthy millers. Hence, both farmers and factory owners remain deeply invested in this crop because of guaranteed, risk-free profits.

It was, then, not surprising when the discourse over sugar's rising cost gained momentum recently. Many accused the previous PDM government of allowing the export of 'surplus stocks' lying with mill owners earlier this year, blaming it for the current price spike. Others held sugar's unchecked smuggling to Afghanistan, due to the large gap between the domestic and international prices of the commodity, responsible. Punjab's caretaker government has blamed the price surge on an interim Lahore High Court order that stopped it from monitoring the commodity's supply chain to ensure implementation of the notified price of Rs100 per kilo.

Interestingly, the caretaker administration has done nothing to get the interim order, that was passed in May, vacated, despite consistently rising retail prices and awareness of sugar smuggling to Afghanistan via Balochistan. The administration's report on the matter, presented to the Punjab chief minister recently, is self-incriminating at best. Past experience shows that the issue will fade away in the next few days or weeks. The retail rate will also come down to settle at a level matching the increased official support price for the next harvest. Sugar forms only a small portion of household expenses. If the government wants to stabilise the market it should extricate itself from the supply chain. It is incorrect to say that the price of sugar can aggravate or mitigate economic shocks in poor or middle-income families.

If the authorities want to help these families, they should focus on reducing the overall cost of living for them — and not just that of sugar.

Reaching the stars



F.S. Aijazuddin

The launch by India of its Chandrayaan-3 rocket and space probe on Aug 23, 2023, and, a few days later, its Aditya L-1 observation mission to the sun, have propelled India into another league. They have separated the men from the boys.

Such programmes take nations decades to develop. The commitment to the US lunar mission was announced by president John F. Kennedy in May 1961. It was fulfilled eight years later in July 1969, when Apollo XI sent two astronauts — Neil Armstrong and 'Buzz' Aldrin — to the moon and returned them to earth safely, to be welcomed by Kennedy's successor (and nemesis) president Richard Nixon.

India's Chandrayaan-3 project was made public by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpa-ye in August 2003. Twenty years later, another BJP leader, PM Narendra Modi, became the beneficiary of Vajpayee's farsightedness.

India's Chandrayaan-3 mission, like that of Apollo XI, will scratch the surface of the moon and conduct valuable scientific experiments there. Apollo XI brought moon rocks back to earth. Fragments were distributed by Nixon to every country in the world. (Incidentally, the one sent to us is allegedly on display in the drawing room of president Yahya Khan's grandson, in Dubai.)

It is interesting that these futuristic space programmes draw on antiquity for their names —

Apollo, Chandrayaan, and Aditya. India's two missions, though, belong to a space age where the horizon is infinity.

Chandrayaan-3 is the first of its kind to land successfully on the moon's South Pole. By comparison, Aditya L-1 is even more daring. It will travel 1.5 million kilometers and take four months to reach Lagrange point 1 — the exact spot "where the gravitational forces of two large objects — such as the sun and the earth — cancel each other out, allowing a spacecraft to hover. Once Aditya-L1 reaches this 'parking spot', it would be able to orbit the sun at the same rate as the earth". It can monitor the sun even during an eclipse.

Although Pakistan will never be the direct beneficiary of the scientific data collected by Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1, it could learn from their development outlay. The cost of the Aditya L-1 is reported to be \$46 million. By contrast, Pakistan's external debt stands at \$125 billion, with no moon or sun rockets to show for it.

India's Chandrayaan-3 is on the moon. Its Aditya L-1 will hover around the sun. It is not inconceivable that India may soon launch a space station that will orbit the earth, with its hardware aimed at sites hidden from the naked eye in neighbouring countries. Hopefully, someone in our National Command Authority responsible for protection of our nuclear assets has anticipated such a possibility.

It should remember, though, US president Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative of 1983, to provide the US with a space-based shield that would detect and destroy enemy (ie nuclear) ballistic missiles as soon as they were launched.

The then USSR, de-

termined not to be left behind, tried to match the US. It took a new leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to admit the idiocy that brought the USSR to the brink of insolvency. The USSR collapsed under the weight of its pretentious, unaffordable ambitions. It conceded defeat. In December 1987, the US and the Soviet Union signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, ending the senseless arms race between the two superpowers.

Its preamble read: "Once the restructuring, corporatisation and privatisation of Wapda/KESC's thermal power generation, power transmission and distribution is complete and Nepra is fully operative, all future investment in power generation, transmission and distribution facilities will become market driven and of no direct concern to GOP. Investors will deal with purchasers, the distribution companies; enter into supply contracts with them, develop their projects under Nepra licence and operate under its oversight."

It continued: "Competitive tariffs will comprise an energy purchase price and a capacity purchase price with adequate provisions for escalation. The GOP will guarantee that the terms of executed agreements, including payment terms, are maintained."

The bureaucrats who designed the scheme enjoy protection here or asylum abroad. The beneficiaries of this largesse are still lordling it within our country. Meanwhile, our public struggles every month to pay the price for their greed. It takes money and maturity to understand the fusion of science and poetry inherent in Robert Browning's inspirational lines: "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, Or what's a heaven for?" — Courtesy Dawn

Pride and prejudice



Afiza S. Zia

Halfway into his term as prime minister, Imran Khan had proudly hyperbolised that, 'I am democracy'. He had praised the military and security agencies for their services and threatened to incarcerate protesting opponents — "not in a VIP jail, but where the poor are sent". Khan never has 'been' democracy but his fall from elite populist to ordinary victim of state subjugation poises him for a second coming — this time, as a democrat.

As prime minister, Khan spoke with a forked tongue: he condemned Islamophobia internationally but weaponised Muslim piety domestically, tolerated the torment of Ahmedis and other minorities, and his alleged pilferage was justified while rivals were condemned as dacoits. Rather than tackle institutional corruption or regulatory lapses, he perfected trolling as governance, peddled fake news, fumbled with the bureaucracy, blamed women victims for sexual violence and empowered military hubris. The army leadership's disenchantment with Khan and his subsequent defiance illustrates how the clash of egos of state male elites shapes history in Pakistan. Khan's biggest achievement to date has been inspired by his deep sulk for being ousted and becoming civilian-patriot versus regime-changing state sellout. This invited the vengeance of the guardians of military hegemony.

Instead of envy, the 'best revenge' from Khan's opponents should have been more democracy, via elections. Instead, the op-

portunistic PDM served a prince whose unforgiving philosophy is that it is far safer to be feared than loved.

The violent events of May 9 could have been a clumsy coup attempt, or a thwarted Haqiqi Azadi Spring, but the images of moral injury that triggered his young, mostly urban middle-class, outraged, weeping supporters, especially defiant women, are compelling. This adulation has only escalated after his incarceration.

The admirable spine shown by some PTI ideologues, in contrast to the rats who jump-ped ship, could help Khan's democratic conversion. The red line challenge may have been gauche and violent but has yielded rewards that come with genuine resistance movements. The leaders of the Lawyers' Movement sensed this a while ago. But what about the rest of civil society?

Since 2007, the newly coined 'civil society' collective of NGOs, media personalities, rights defenders and public intellectuals have been debating the merits of transition versus transformation; boycotts of elections; and who to blame the most for failing democracy — the military, the parties and praetorians, or the elite that collaborate? The verdicts on these became easier with the signing of the Benazir-Nawaz Charter of Democracy.

Despite decades of debates and intellectual engagement through op-eds, donor-funded consultancy reports and WhatsApp clique wisdom, why does civil society get paralysed at times of political crisis? The main calling for activists is to defend democracy through fair and free elections and to uphold citizens' constitutional rights.

Yes, the dissolution of the Punjab and KP assemblies must be scrutinised and resolved simultaneously and not shrugged aside. Parties can be held

accountable and severely criticised for governance failure, but not punished, cancelled or censored. That's the prerogative of voters via ballot.

A moment of cynical vindication is one thing, but punitive state excesses against all political activists must be robustly opposed, irrespective of motive, class, gender, ideology and political affiliation or their alleged offenses. Due process, fair trials, best defence, free speech and presumed innocence must be advocated by human rights activists without prejudice or partisanship.

For women's rights groups, there can be no equivocation over some women de-serving more de-fence than others, or passive-aggressive resentment over the entitlement or ingratitude of the PTI. Human rights aren't pardons to be dispensed by high priests, nor are they ear-ned. Democrats are often born out of political crises and personal rites of passage.

Admittedly, any principled or intellectual engagement with PTI activists and apologists has been a futile endeavour. Attempts to frame the mistreatment of PTI members in the gendered and class history of such state excesses has been arrogantly dismissed as 'state collaboration'. Instead of building a common alliance of survivors, the counsels for PTI exceptionalism wanted to stand alone on the moral perch of defending martyrdom. The singular victim-saviour that defines the populist has been perfected by the PTI, but now must be rid of this false pride for a politics of collectivism. Civil society must quit their prejudice, unequivocally oppose the state's excesses and demand immediate elections and, robustly defend the human rights of all party activists, without exception.

-- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PM Kakar says: Crackdown on smuggling bringing positive outcomes

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday said that the crackdown by the government on smuggling during the last 48 hours brought positive outcomes and was also welcomed by the authorities of neighboring countries.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that an operation against the smuggling had been launched across the country, particularly in the border areas.

He said the consultation was underway to promote trade with neighboring countries which had also welcomed the government's crackdown against smuggling.

He said the resolution of business community's problems was among the government's priorities.

The prime minister welcomed the proposals by the delegation and assured implementation of the practicable ones.

He told the delegation that after assuming the office, he interacted with the business community and listened to their issues.

He appreciated the business community's role for economic development and provision of job opportunities.

Prime Minister Kakar said the government was reforming the taxation system through digitalisation.

He said the economic development was not possible unless the tax collection was increased.

He said the government would bring in the economic stability by winning confidence of traders, industrialists and investors.

The reformation process in the power sector was also going on and action was being taken against those involved in the power theft.

The prime minister said that consultation with all the stakeholders was essential for issues resolution and the Commerce Ministry would regularly seek suggestions from the chambers.

He directed the authorities concerned to submit a report on expansion of FBR's Point of Sales system besides improving the performance of commercial attaches in Pakistan's diplomatic missions.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting held in Islamabad.

Pak & Ethiopia have very important place in terms of trade and economy: Envoy

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: Ethiopian Ambassador to Pakistan Jamal Beker Abdula visited the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) Capital Office in Islamabad and called on Vice President FPCCI Umar Masood ur Rehman, Convenor, Syed Asad Mashadi.

They discussed wide-ranging trade, industry, and commercial avenues of cooperation, investments,

however, my target is to take it to \$300 million by the end of 2023. Pakistani textiles, medicines, and other products will have more space in the Ethiopian market.

The Ethiopian ambassador, Mr. Jamal Beker Abdula, remarked that the world should not see Pakistan through a Western media lens. Pakistan is a peaceful, culturally rich, and diversified country with

Consumers of 3G/4G service increased to 126 mln

ISLAMABAD (APP): The number of 3G and 4G service users in Pakistan has significantly increased and reached 126 million by the end of July 2023. As per the details available on the official site of the PTA, the number of active mobile SIMs reached 191 million during the same period. The number of broadband subscribers reached 129 million while the broadband penetration was recorded at 54.18 per cent.

LESCO carries out operation against power thieves

LAHORE (APP): Operation against power thieves was carried out in all circles of the Lahore Electric Supply Company as per the direction of Federal Power Division.

According to LESCO sources here on Thursday, 330 connections were found involved in power theft. Applications for registering FIRs against power thieves had been submitted in relevant police stations while 130 FIRs got registered. As many as 11 accused had been arrested while all connections had been disconnected.

US-Pakistan discusses to strengthen bilateral trade economic, trade ties

ISLAMABAD (INP): The United States (US) and Pakistan on Thursday discussed strengthening bilateral trade relations, fostering mutual cooperation to the bilateral ties.

US Ambassador Donald Blome called on the Federal Minister for Commerce, Industries and Production, Dr. Gohar Ejaz in the Ministry of Commerce, said a press release issued here.

One of the key highlights of the meeting was the exploration of potential opportunities for boosting trade in various sectors, including Textile, value added Food products, Fresh Mangoes and Dates, Soybean and



FAISALABAD: A view of the un functional factory along the Maqbool road as due to the unstable economic and political situation, a lot of such factories shut their production across the country.

CCP remains vigilant in fulfilling its statutory role amid sugar crisis

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP) is monitoring the ongoing sugar crisis in the country and will take appropriate enforcement and policy actions if any indications of anti-competitive activities are found.

It is important to highlight that CCP carried out dawn raids on the Pakistan Sugar Mills Association (PSMA) in 2021 and imposed substantial penalties of Rs 44 billion on PSMA and its member sugar mills for

cartelization, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

However, CCP's decision was appealed against in the High Courts of Sindh and Punjab, and in the Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) and the recovery of penalties has been stayed.

The Appellate Tribunal is dysfunctional since 14th July 2023 due to the expiry of term of its Chairman whilst cases of sugar mills and similar important cases are pending.

Pakistani volunteer's ringside seat at Beijing trade fair

BEIJING (APP): Pakistani graduate student Hussain Azhar has volunteered at the China International Fair for Trade in Services (CIFTIS) in Beijing these days, promoting his home country's exhibitors at the fair, which he considers an excellent event for identifying business opportunities.

"I am very proud to be selected as one of the volunteers by the Pakistani Embassy in China to help introduce what we have to offer here to visitors from all over the world," Azhar told Xinhua. At the five-day fair, from Sept. 2 to 6, Azhar received about 150 visitors per day, on average, at the Pakistani national pavilion. Azhar is working on his Ph.D. in business at the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing, and views his volunteering stint as a fascinating and eye-opening experience.

At the Pakistani national pavilion, there are five exhibitors: the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA) of the Pakistani government; the National Logistic Corporation (NLC); the National Bank of Pakistan (NBP); Habib Bank Limited (HBL); and the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA). "STZA provides solutions to international entrepreneurs to start their business or invest in Pakistan, and NLC, NBP as well as HBL have taken CIFTIS as an opportunity to promote their cross-border services in logistics and financing," said Azhar.

Prior to studying in Beijing, Azhar taught business studies at Preston University in Pakistan for 17 years.

"I can't put into words how excited I am to see so many big-name companies and advanced technologies at the fair.

Pakistan's total liquid foreign reserves reach 13.126 billion

KARACHI (APP): The total liquid foreign reserves of Pakistan stood at US\$ 13,126.7 million while reserves held by the central bank reached at \$ 7,779.3 million.

The State Bank of Pakistan, in a statement issued here on Thursday, informed that SBP's reserves decreased by \$ 70 million to \$ 7,779.3 million on account of debt repayments during the week ended on September 01, 2023.

Meanwhile, net foreign reserves held by commercial banks stood at \$ 5,347.4 million, it added. In the previous week ending on August 25, 2023, total liquid foreign reserves held by the country was US\$ 13,171.1 million. Among them foreign reserves held by the central bank were \$ 7,849.3 million while net foreign reserves held by commercial banks were \$ 5,321.8 million.



and joint ventures. On behalf of the business and trading community, Mr. Jamal Beker Abdula, Ethiopian ambassador, said that a preferential trade agreement between Pakistan and Ethiopia is indispensable for the promotion of mutual trade.

"Bilateral trade between the two countries is minimal and amounts (only) to \$78 million;

immensely strong social values and huge economic potential, he remarked.

He stressed the bilateral trade relations, and stated that Ethiopia is an attractive market for Pakistani agricultural, pharmaceutical, and technological products while Ethiopia is critical to Pakistan's food security in terms of import of pulses, chickpeas and red kidney beans.

Punjab Governor inaugurates 3-day food technology exhibition

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman inaugurated the three-day International Food Technology (IFTEC), Plastics and Pack exhibition at the Expo Centre, here on Thursday. Addressing the audience, he said promotion of industry and trade was very important for prosperity and development of the country, adding promotion of industry leads to socio economic development of the country and also generates employment opportunities. He said organisation of such

international exhibitions bade well for bolstering the industry. Appreciating contribution of businessmen to society, the Punjab governor said businesspeople were not only contributing to development of the country by paying taxes, but also through their welfare works. He said that such exhibitions would give an opportunity to people associated with the plastic and packaging industry to expand their businesses. The governor said that such exhibitions would have a positive impact on business development and

the country's economy. He said that such event also play an important role in promoting the latest technologies by bringing together diversified exhibitors from all over the world and provide a forum to exchange ideas and cost-effective solutions. He said he was happy to see that more than 200 plastic and packaging industry stalls had been set up at the three-day international exhibition and companies from more than 20 countries including Canada, Belgium, Russia, Denmark, France, Germany, America, United Arab Emirates were participating in the event.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman cutting ribbon to inaugurate the 18th IFTECH and Plastic & Pack exhibitions at Expo Centre.

Oct 14 Conference to have profound impact on KP politics: JUI-F

PESHAWAR (APP): Provincial Ameer, JUI-F Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Maulana Atta-ur-Rehman said that the historic conference in Peshawar on October 14 will have a profound impact on the politics of the province. He was addressing a meeting of Central Districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at the residence of the Senator Dilawar Khan in Mardan on Thursday. Provincial General Secretary Maulana

Atta Haque Darwish, Maulana Fazal Ali Provincial Information Secretary Haji Abdul Jalil Jan, former Provincial Information Secretary Asif Iqbal Daudzai also attended the meeting. Maulana Amanullah Haqqani JUI District Amir Maulana Muhammad Qasim, District General Secretary Maulana Amanat Shah Haqqani, Senator Haji Dilawar Khan, Maulana Qaiseruddin, Hafiz Akhtar Ali and others also spoke.

Dumper-tractor trolley collision claims 3 lives

LAHORE (Online): As many as 3 persons died and 4 were injured when a dumper collided with a standing tractor trolley at Arayan stop Raiwind road Lahore. Those riding tractor trolley were having breakfast when the dumper collided with tractor trolley. 3 persons died on the spot while 4 got injured. On information Rescue teams rushed to the scene and shifted the injured to Indus hospital.

Punjab govt ordered crackdown on power thieves in province

CS urges citizens to support national drive against electricity theft

Independent Report
LAHORE: The caretaker Punjab government, on Wednesday, issued instructions to all the divisional commissioners and regional police officers (RPOs) to launch a full-scale crackdown on electricity thieves. The instructions were issued by Chief Secretary Punjab Zahid Akhtar Zaman during a video link meeting held at the Civil Secretariat. The Additional Chief Secretary (Home),

secretaries of industries, energy department, Additional IG Special Branch attended the meeting while all divisional commissioners, RPOs and heads of Power Distribution Companies participated through video link. The meeting decided to take stern action against those government employees and officers patronizing electricity theft and to improve the prosecution procedure after registration of FIR against power thieves.



HYDERABAD: Security high alert on the top of building at Koh-e-Noor Chowk during Chehlam of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) the grandson of the Holy Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), martyred along with his family members and companions at Karbala.

Maliha Husain says: Sexual harassment ruining society

FAISALABAD (APP): Sexual Harassment Act 2010 safeguards lives of people from the societal evil, yet there is a dire need to provide awareness about it at the public level," she said.

"The discussion on sexual harassment in families is considered as a taboo. We should hold conversation in this regard to create awareness so that we can get rid of the menace," she added. Maliha Husain said that in our society not only women but also men fell victim to sexual violence. In today's age, friendships start through internet and its videos, sometimes, lead to crimes.

"Hence, we all from, parents to teachers, are duty-bound to play a proactive role for rooting out the evil in an effective way," she stressed. Addressing a seminar on 'Sexual Harassment Act 2010' at the University of Agriculture Faisalabad (UAF), she said sexual harassment was common phenomena, but unfortunately, it was not discussed in our society. "Although the



MULTAN: Rescue workers evacuate people from the villages as water from the Sutlej River continued to inundate settlements along its banks, near Multan on Thursday.

UAJK extends admission deadline for fall semester

MUZAFFARABAD (APP): In a significant development, the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (UAJK), under its esteemed patronage, has extended the regular admission dates for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester. This extension applies to admission in various programs, including BS, MSc, MPhil, and PhD, at the UAJK. The new deadline for admission submissions is now set for September 15. In line with this

announcement, the UAJK's Public Relations Department has officially communicated that entrance tests for these programs are scheduled to take place on September 20 and 21. Prospective students seeking admission to the University of Kashmir are encouraged to collect admission forms, along with comprehensive guidelines, from the Office of Director Student Affairs located at Chellah Campus, Muzaaffarabad. This initiative aims to ensure that all students.

Governor hospitalized due to blood pressure

ABBOTTABAD (APP): Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali suffered a mild rise in blood pressure during his stay in Nithia Gali on Thursday.

The spokesperson of the governor confirmed that his team immediately shifted him to the Ayub Medical Complex in Abbottabad earlier this morning. The Governor received immediate medical treatment at the Ayub Medical Complex while the spokesperson also confirmed that subsequently, his blood pressure has since returned to normal. For the last couple of days, Governor KP Haji Ghulam Ali was in the Hazara division to attend several ceremonies as chief guest.

PAL organizes seminar on 76years of KP Literature

PESHAWAR (APP): Pakistan Academy of Letters (PAL) organized a seminar on 76 Years Literature of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with Azz Ijaz and Kalsoom Zeb as chief guests and Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman as guest of honour.

Addressing the participants of the seminar, the renowned scholar, researcher and poet, Professor Dr Yar Mohammad Maghmoon said that special thing in the beautiful literature of the writers of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is that it reflects the culture, civilization and traditions of the people. He said that natural environment and colour of the society is visible in the literature of the province. In his address the guest of honour, Dr Mehboob-ur-Rehman said that both prose and poetry of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is commendable from all aspects as it reflects nationalism, humanity and natural environment of the Pakhtun society. Professor Aseer Mengal, Malik Arshad Hussain and Resident Director PAL Peshawar, Badshah Nusrat shed detailed light on the literary work in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

8 held during crackdown against outlaws in Taxila

WAH CANTT (APP): Police in different raids on Thursday arrested eight outlaws involved in illegal activities and also recovered narcotics, and liquor from their possession.

According to police, during a crackdown, police arrested as many as eight outlaws including two proclaimed offenders wanted in two different cases. Sub-divisional Police Officer said that Wah Saddar Police raided two different drug dens of Danish and Shahbaz.

International News

Deadly Russian strike on market in Ukraine kills 17

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: A Russian strike killed at least 17 people at a market in east Ukraine Wednesday, officials said, in an attack that President Volodymyr Zelensky described as deliberate and "heinous". Projectiles tore through the centre of Kostiantynivka — a town of nearly 70,000 people in the Donetsk region — hours after America's top diplomat arrived in Kyiv to announce new wartime aid. Ukraine's newly appointed defence minister meanwhile vowed to liberate "every centimetre" of territory occupied by Russia in his first comments in

the post. Rescue workers picked through the debris and carried some of the wounded for treatment past charred vehicles and kiosks torn to pieces in the blast, according to images distributed by officials. "Seventeen people were killed and 32 injured as a result of the Russian shelling," Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said, announcing the rescue operation had ended. Prime Minister Denys Shmygal said a child was among those killed in the attack, which took place about 20 kilometres from the front line. "Anyone in the world who is still dealing with

anything Russian simply ignores this reality," said Zelensky. "Heinous evil. Brazen wickedness. Utter inhumanity." He later accused Russia of deliberately targeting civilians and said there were no military units "anywhere near" the scene. The attack came as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Ukraine, with Washington set to unveil more than \$1 billion in fresh aid to battle Russia. During a meeting with Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba, Blinken reiterated Washington's support for Kyiv in its fight to liberate territory in the south and east.



London and the EU agreed the UK can rejoin the EU's Horizon science programme.

Biden aims to use G20 summit and Vietnam visit to highlight US as trustworthy alternative to China

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: President Joe Biden is looking to demonstrate to the world at the Group of 20 summit in India and during a stop in Vietnam that the United States and its like-minded allies are better economic and security partners than China. White House officials said Biden, who was set to depart for New Delhi on Thursday evening, will use this year's G20 gathering as an opportunity for the United States to highlight a

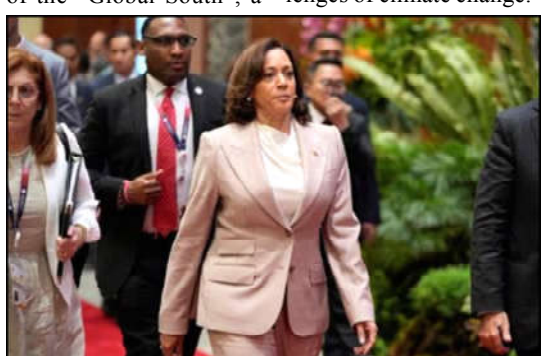
proposition for developing and middle income countries that would increase the leading power of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund by some \$200 billion. That is an attempt to offer a significant, albeit smaller, alternative to China's massive Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, which the U.S. views as a Trojan horse for China-led regional development and military expansion. Chinese President Xi Jinping plans to skip the

summit, where Premier Li Qiang will represent the country. Afterward the summit, Biden and Vietnamese General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong will meet in Hanoi and are expected to announce plans to tighten economic cooperation. Vietnam and China have robust trade relations, but also deep differences. Vietnam, like Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Brunei, has been in a tense territorial standoff for decades with China.

India's Modi calls for climate finance ahead of G20 meet

Monitoring Desk
NEW DELHI: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that leaders of the G20 summit he is chairing this weekend must support developing nations to tackle climate change with more cash and by sharing technology. Against a backdrop of record-breaking temperatures and deadly heatwaves across the globe, climate scientists and activists have warned of dire consequences — particularly for developing countries — if leaders fail to forge a consensus. Modi has pitched India as a self-styled leader of the "Global South," a

bridge between developed and developing countries. "Many countries of the Global South are at various stages of development and climate action must be a complementary pursuit," Modi wrote in an editorial carried by several Indian outlets as well as international dailies, including in Britain and Japan. Globally, wealthy nations missed their pledge to provide, by 2020, \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer nations, eroding trust that polluters will help vulnerable countries least responsible for warming to tackle the challenges of climate change.



U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris leaves after attending the East Asia Summit at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia.

US Vice President Harris calls NKorea-Russia military support "huge mistake"

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris said it would be a "huge mistake" for North Korea to exchange military support with Russia for use in its war against Ukraine. Harris, who is in Jakarta, Indonesia for an ASEAN summit, told CBS News in an interview broadcast on Thursday that it would be a sign of desperation for Russia to seek aid from the reclusive North Korea and it would further isolate both countries. "I think it would be a

huge mistake. The idea that they would be supplying ammunition to that end, is — would be a huge mistake. I also believe very strongly that for both Russia and North Korea, this will further isolate them," Harris said. U.S. officials have warned in recent days that arms negotiations between Russia and North Korea are actively advancing, while a report said North Korea's Kim Jong Un plans to travel to Russia this month to meet President Vladimir Putin and discuss supplying Moscow with weapons for its war effort.



Former Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum smiles after the announcement of the results of an internal national polling which declared Sheinbaum as the presidential candidate, in Mexico City, Mexico.

EU tells Turkiye to 'address democracy' to join bloc

Monitoring Desk
ISTANBUL: The European Union's enlargement commissioner told Turkiye on Wednesday to address issues around democracy and the rule of law if it wants to boost its drive to join the bloc. Ankara secured a pledge from Brussels to resurrect stalled membership negotiations in exchange for lifting its blockade of Sweden's drive to join the Nato military alliance. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has made mending torn ties with Western allies one of his priorities after winning a diffi-

cult election in May. The EU's enlargement chief Oliver Varhelyi came to Ankara to try and gauge where the sides could find common ground. Varhelyi told reporters that he hoped to come up with "something tangible and something positive" for the bloc's leaders to discuss at a European Council summit in December. "I think this partnership has huge potential," he said. But Varhelyi noted that negotiations were currently at a "standstill" and needed action by Turkiye on human rights issues to move on.

U.S., South Korea, Japan agree to accelerate missile tracking cooperation

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: Defence chiefs from the U.S., South Korea and Japan on Thursday jointly condemned North Korea's recent test of missiles and agreed to accelerate missile tracking cooperation, South Korea's Ministry of National Defence said in a statement.

UN offers to support Gabon for transition back to civilian rule

Monitoring Desk
LIBREVILLE: A U.N. representative told Gabon's military leader the U.N. institutions stood ready to support the country as it transitions back to constitutional order following a coup that ended the Bongo family's 56 years of dynastic autocracy. Army officers seized power on Aug. 30, annulling an election minutes after an announcement that President Ali Bongo had won, which they said was not credible.

14 die in Greece, Turkiye as storms follow heat

Monitoring Desk
VLOS: Storms have killed at least 14 people in Greece, Turkiye and Bulgaria, with a Greek region hit by more rain in 24 hours than it normally sees in a year, officials said on Wednesday. A period of extreme heat has given way to heavy storms, turning streets in north-western Turkiye into rivers and hitting Greece with unprecedented downpours as it recovers from weeks of wildfires. "Everything saved from the fire we had in July

has been destroyed by this bad weather," said Christos Kleftakis, 49, in Nea Anchialos, near the central Greek city of Volos. "This is unprecedented — these severe weather events, the strength of the rain, the wind. I've never seen anything like that before," he added. As the world warms, the atmosphere contains more water vapour which increases the risk of heavy precipitation in some parts of the world, notably in Asia, Western Europe and Latin America.

Moderna says its vaccine fares well against Covid variant

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Moderna said on Wednesday its updated fall Covid booster, which is pending approval from the Food and Drug Administration, performed well against the highly mutated BA.2.86 variant. Human trial data showed the shot produced an 8.7-fold increase in neutralising antibodies against the variant, also known as Pirola, which has been designated a variant under monitoring, the US biotech company said.

MoIB releases details of payments made to media for ads during last 2 years

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MoIB) on Thursday released details of the payments made to electronic, print and digital media in terms of advertisements during the past two years.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has conducted media campaigns for different initiatives and events including Kissan Package, the PM's Youth Programme, Benazir Income Support Programme, national days, and foreign visits, said a news release.

The MoIB issued advertisements in classified and unclassified (display) categories.

The Press Information Department played its role in paying the advertising bills of 437 federal departments and agencies.

From July 2021 to June 2022, payments of Rs 2,47,50,53,713 were made during the tenure of the Pakistan Democratic Movement government in terms of advertisements issued by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf regime.

From July 2022 to June 2023, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting received bills to the tune of Rs 3,97,25,55,654 in the form of advertisements.

Under the bills received for the period from July 2021 to June 2022, the MoIB made payments worth Rs 2,47,50,53,713.

From July 2022 to June 2023, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting received bills to the tune of Rs 3,97,25,55,654 in the form of advertisements.

Under the bills received for the period from July 2021 to June 2022, payments worth Rs 2.93 billion were made.

From July 2022 to June 2023, bills worth 1,86,21,46,890 were received and payments amounting to Rs 98,73,18,074 were made for the advertising campaign of other federal ministries/departments and institutions.

All these data are already in the public domain.



HYDERABAD: Security officials stand high alert on route to avoid any untoward incident as security has been tightened during Shiite mourning processions in connection of 40th day Chehlum-e-Hazrat Imam Hussain (R.A), grandson of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH), in Hyderabad.

Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain observed in northern Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): Like others part of the country, the Chelum of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), and his 72 companions who sacrificed their lives for the holy cause. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was the younger grandson of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and the younger son of the Hazrat Ali (RA) and Hazrat Fatima (RA). In all parts of the northern Sindh mourning processions were taken out to highlight the importance of the day and pay rich tribute to the Karbala martyrs.

Speakers paid rich tributes to the Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), and his 72 companions who sacrificed their lives for the holy cause. Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA) was the younger grandson of the Holy Prophet (PBUH), and the younger son of the Hazrat Ali (RA) and Hazrat Fatima (RA). In all parts of the northern Sindh mourning processions were taken out to highlight the importance of the day and pay rich tribute to the Karbala martyrs.

Govt imposed under agenda drifted country to economic quagmire: Maulana Fazl

LAHORE (Online): PDM Chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman has said the government imposed under an agenda pushed Pakistan to economic quagmire.

"Imran Khan government drifted the country to economic quagmire. The government imposed under an agenda in 2018 was aimed at handing over Kashmir to India and recognizing Israel, he said this while addressing Khatme Nabuwat conference here.

He held "I am not seeing so that any future government will be able to steer us out of this quagmire.

He went on to say first economic instability was brought in Pakistan.

Then the country was driven to political and economic mire and attempt was made to pit us against each other. But we maintained unity. There is need to keep the people abreast of all these things.



ISLAMABAD: Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia called on Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Economic Affairs, and Privatization Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, at the Finance Division.

EC briefed with live demo of Result Compilation System

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) received a briefing on the operation of the Result Compilation System and witnessed a live demonstration of its functionality.

During the briefing and live demonstrations, the IT Secretary, and NADRA team shared their feedback on the system.

The notable participants in the briefing included the Secretary of the Election Commission, an Advisor, Special Secretary, the Head of the Project Management Unit, and other officials.

Furthermore, the commission was updated on ongoing constituency-related tasks, including the successful training of Constituency Committees, seat allocation for the National and Provincial Assemblies by district, and the commencement of committee activities.

Hindus celebrate Thadri across northern Sindh

SUKKUR (APP): Hindus in across the northern Sindh are celebrating Thadri festival on Thursday.

Thadri is a famous traditional festival, celebrated in Siraman/Saawan month of monsoon season. On this day women decorate the doorways of their houses and do mud plaster to their kitchens.

No cooking activities were done on this day. The sweet roties (mitho lolo) made of pure ghee are offered to Shitla Mata to stay safe from various diseases. Sweet roties are exchanged with relatives and friends, if needed women cook fresh food or tea in the temporary fireplace. It has also been learned that in Sindh "Thadri" reflected a tribute to Shitla Mata, who was believed to cure chicken poxes (Achbira).

Talking to APP, Sukkur's Mukhi Aishwer Lal said thousands of years ago, when the land of Moen-Jo- Daro was dug, a statue of Shitla Devi was found and since then this day is dedicated to the deity.

CTD arrests militant in Sukkur

SUKKUR (APP): The Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) has arrested a militant associated with a banned outfit wanted in high-profile terrorism cases in Sukkur.

According to the CTD spokesman on Thursday, the terrorist identified as Farooq Shah was head of the banned outfit's provincial student wing and he was wanted in seven high-profile terrorism cases.

The CTD officials said that the name of the arrested terrorist was also included in the Red Book as he was involved in several abduction cases. Spokesman CTD further said one pistol and several bullets have been recovered from the accused and further investigation was underway.

Notification regarding ban on Rs 5000 currency note fake: Solangi

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Thursday that notification regarding the ban on Rs 5,000 currency notes was fake.

In a post on X, formerly Twitter, the minister said that the government would take strict action against those spreading such fake notifications.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications & Railways Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar presiding over meeting of National Highway Council - Supreme body of National Highway Authority. ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Communications & Railways Mr. Shahid Ashraf Tarar presiding over meeting of National Highway Council - Supreme body of National Highway Authority.

8th Sep marked as Navy Day to pay tributes to valiant sons of soil for bombarding Dwarka

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi on Thursday said Pakistan Navy celebrated 8th September as the Navy Day to pay tributes to the sacrifices of its Officers and Men who demonstrated self-belief, grit-n- guile and absolute faith in Allah SWT to venture into enemy waters and bombarded coastal town of Dwarka. In his message on the Navy Day, the Naval Chief said that on this day, we acknowledge the sacrifices of our Shuhadas and Ghazis and honour their bravado and valiant spirit which lifted the morale of the nation against a sinister enemy during the 1965 War, a Pakistan Navy (PN) news release said.

During Operation Dwarka, codenamed 'Operation SOMNATH', Pakistan Navy's seven major warships proceeded on an audacious mission inside enemy territory and destroyed significant shore installations including Indian radar station and a radio beacon at Dwarka. PN Flotilla's attack took the enemy by surprise and dealt a severe blow to the morale of the Indian Navy that not only rattled its defences but paralyzed its response.

Furthermore, PN Submarine GHAZI posed an ominous threat to the Indian Navy severely restricting its operations and confining it close to the coast.



PTA committed to provide support, facilitation to cable industry: Chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman PTA, Major General @ Hafeez Ur Rehman Thursday said, that Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) was committed to providing support and facilitation to cable industry within the legal parameters.

During a meeting with a delegation of the Cable Operators Association of Pakistan (CAP), the chairman emphasized that the authority was proactively reviewing the current CVAS License (Class Value Added Services) regime through a stakeholder consultation process to address issues related to the provision of internet services, considering the ever-evolving dynamics of the digital market and technological advancements.

The delegation also discussed the matters of mutual interest. The primary focus of the meeting was to deliberate on regulatory matters and concerns regarding provision of internet services by cable operators in Pakistan.

The chairman PTA extended a warm welcome to the delegation and listened to their concerns.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce, Dr. Gohar Ejaz, and Turkmenistan Ambassador to Pakistan, H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov meet to enhance bilateral trade.

In upcoming low-flow season Chairman WAPDA for ensuring completion of diversion scheme

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairman WAPDA Engr Lt Gen Sajjad Ghani (Retd) has directed the contractor to ensure completion of the diversion system during the up-coming low-flow season for diversion of River Swat.

The Chairman visited various construction sites of the project to review the progress achieved so far, said a press release.

He witnessed concrete works on upper stilling basin of the spillway; also observed construction activities at left and right abutments of the dam and various components of the diversion system including the diversion tunnels. GM and PD Mohmand Dam Project, the consultants and the contractors were also present during the visit.

Later in a briefing, schedule for diversion scheme, resource loaded programme for quarry development, stock piling and dam filling as well as activity-wise resource loaded programme for the whole project were discussed. The Chairman said that achieving the key milestones on time is inevitable for completion of Mohmand Dam Project in accordance with the schedule. He emphasized upon the project team, the contractors in particular, to make concerted efforts in this regard.

WAPDA is constructing Mohmand Dam Project across River Swat in Mohmand District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. It is the 5th highest concrete-face-rock-fill dam in the world.

The dam will store water for agriculture, control flood, supply water to Peshawar for urban use and generate green, clean and economically affordable hydel electricity. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026-27.



WASHINGTON DC: Ambassador Masood Khan speaks during a ceremony to mark Defence and Martyr's Day of Pakistan which is observed every year to pay tribute to those valiant sons of the soil who laid down their lives while protecting the sanctity of the motherland against a blatant act of aggression in 1965.

Tarar wants new schemes for NHA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Communications and Railways Shahid Ashraf Tarar wants to focus on undertaking new schemes to increase the revenue level of the National Highway Authority (NHA).

The minister presided over the 44th meeting of the National Highway Council (Supreme body of NHA), held here at the ministry on Thursday.

Federal Secretary Communications/Chairman National Highway Authority Capt @ Muhammad Khurram Agha, and high-ups from the Finance Division, Planning & Development Division, Highway Construction Expert, Financial Professionals and the senior officers of the Ministry of Communications and National Highway Authority were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the meeting, the minister stressed to focus on undertaking new various schemes to increase the revenue level of the Authority at large.

He directed to launch of a comprehensive media campaign for the implementation of hiked violation fines on Motorways and National Highways across the country.

He further asked to gear up the pace of work on the construction of residential apartments for NHA employees.

Tarar desired to improve the maintenance affairs of Motorways and National Highways and that maximum travelling and civic amenities on service and rest areas be ensured for ease of the travellers.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Power and Petroleum, Muhammad Ali exchanging views with Kamran Tessori, Governor Sindh during meeting held in Islamabad.

Saudi Ambassador calls on Caretaker Finance Minister

ISLAMABAD (Online): Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia reciprocated the sentiments and reiterated that the long-term relationships of the both brotherly countries are timeless. He underscored shared that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is keen in seeking investment opportunities and deepening bilateral economic and trade ties with Pakistan. Both sides expressed the desire to foster economic partnerships that can benefit both nations and contribute to regional stability and prosperity. They agreed to continue working closely to explore concrete steps for economic collaboration and to promote mutual cooperation.

Nawaf Bin Said Al-Malki, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia reciprocated the sentiments and reiterated that the long-term relationships of the both brotherly countries are timeless. He underscored shared that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is keen in seeking investment opportunities and deepening bilateral economic and trade ties with Pakistan. Both sides expressed the desire to foster economic partnerships that can benefit both nations and contribute to regional stability and prosperity. They agreed to continue working closely to explore concrete steps for economic collaboration and to promote mutual cooperation.



LAHORE: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed along with Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Sirajul Haque talking to media persons at Jamaat-e-Islami Center Mansoor.

Religious affairs minister visits Kartarpur, emphasizes cross-border harmony

NAROWAL (APP): Caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed Thursday visited Kartarpur, and expressed his appreciation for the love and respect shown by the pilgrims, emphasizing the strong bond of humanity that united both nations.

He was warmly received by Abu Bakr Aftab Qureshi, CEO of the Project Management Unit, who briefed the minister on the project's objectives and approved developments.

During his visit, the minister toured various key facilities, including the zero-line, facilitation counters, Langar Khana, Gurdwara Sahib, and the Amrit Jal Filtration Plant.

He also engaged with Indian pilgrims, inquiring about their impressions and experiences regarding the Kartarpur Corridor initiative.

The Sikh pilgrims praised the services and facilities provided by Pakistani authorities.

Minister Aneeq Ahmed reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to preserving this relationship and vowed not to let anyone disrupt it.

He marked the occasion by laying the foundation stone and planting a tree at the theme park under the project.