

Independent

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KARACHI: Sindh Caretaker Chief Minister Justice (Retd) Maqbool Baqar presides over a cabinet meeting at CM House.

PM for expanding cooperation with Turkiye in multiple sectors

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar on Thursday stressed the need to enhance bilateral cooperation with Turkiye in multiple sectors, including trade, agriculture, energy, mining, IT and defence.

Talking to Ambassador of Turkiye in Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, the prime minister said Pakistan was keen to attract foreign investors and the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) had been established to generate new and attractive investment opportunities in priority sectors.

He said in addition to having strong and time-tested bilateral relations, Pakistan and Turkiye

shared convergence and close cooperation on a wide range of regional and multi-lateral issues, including efforts to combat Islamophobia.

He appreciated Turkiye's reconstruction efforts following the tragic earthquake of February 2023 and reiterated Pakistan's readiness to continue extending all possible support to the Turkish people.

The prime minister thanked President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the Turkish leadership for their warm messages of felicitations on his assumption of office.

He said the people of Pakistan enjoyed a historic, cultural and fraternal relationship with Turkiye.

PPP focusing on stability of national economy: Shazia Marri

LAHORE (APP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Parliamentarians Secretary Information Shazia Ata Marri said that her party was primarily focusing on stability of national economy, stressing that while elections were inevitable, the party was not concerned about who sets the date for the general elections.

She was giving a press briefing outside Bilawal House, here on Thursday. She was joined by Faisal Kareem Kundi and Shahzad Saeed Cheema during this briefing, which followed the PPP's Central Executive Committee (CEC) meeting. During the CEC meeting, the matter of elections

was thoroughly discussed, and Marri insisted that announcing the election date was as important as defining the constituencies. She revealed that the next CEC session was scheduled for Friday, September 15, at Bilawal House in Lahore.

The previous CEC meeting, chaired by Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, included prominent figures like former president Asif Ali Zardari, Faryal Talpur, former prime minister Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani, and other senior PPP members from across the country. The meeting delved into various pressing issues, including the current political landscape.



KARACHI: Muttahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P) Deputy Convener, Farooq Sattar exchanging views with Maulana Rashid Soomro, Leader Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI-F) during meeting held at Bahadurabad Markaz in Karachi.

Caretaker Minister Irrigation suspends two sub-engineers

Independent Report
KARACHI: On the instruction of Caretaker Minister for Irrigation Ishwar Lal and Secretary Irrigation Niaz Ali Abbasi, Khurram Pervez Rid Assistant Executive Engineer Civil Nara Lift Sub-Division Sukkur and Shahid Mahar Sub-Engineer Nara Lift Sub-Division Sukkur have been suspended on account of negligence in performing official duties.

These suspended sub-engineers were involved in water theft. In a statement issued here on Thursday, Caretaker Minister for Irrigation Ishwar Lal has warned the officers/officials of the department that he would not tolerate any negligence in performing official duties and strict departmental action would be taken against those who failed to perform their official duties upto the mark.

PM directs to expedite privatization process of PIA

ISLAMABAD (Online): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar chaired a meeting on matters related to PIA today. The Prime Minister was briefed on the progress of privatization process of PIA.

The Prime Minister said that process needs to be expedited urgently so as to provide a reliable service to the users and to raise the standards of the national flag carrier to match the global airline standards.

He directed all the relevant stakeholders to find an immediate solution to the matters related to this privatization.

He welcomed the new caretaker minister for privatization Mr. Fawad Hasan Fawad to his team and instructed him to oversee the process of privatization of PIA and to complete it on a fast track basis.

Mount Everest climber Asad Memon calls on Sports Minister

KARACHI (APP): Asad Ali Memon, the first mountaineer from Sindh to climb Mount Everest, the highest peak in the world, called on the Provincial Caretaker Minister for Sports, Culture, and Labor, Dr. Syed Junaid Ali Shah, here at the Minister's office on Thursday.

The minister encouraged Asad Memon and also assured him of all possible support for the facilities required by the youth of Sindh in connection with mountaineering.

On the occasion, Asad Ali Memon also presented his photograph taken during mountaineering on Mount Everest to the minister of sports.

No relief for Imran, Qureshi in cypher case

ISLAMABAD (APP): A special court on Thursday dismissed the post arrest bail petitions of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chairman and Vice Chairman Shah Mehmooq Qureshi in the cypher case registered under the Official Secrets Act.

However, the court granted interim bail to PTI leader Asad Umar in the same case against surety bonds of Rs 50,000.

Special Court's Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain announced the verdict which he had reserved earlier after hearing arguments from the two sides.

At the outset of hearing, the petitioner's lawyer Salman Safdar Advocate said that an officer of Interior Ministry was the complainant in the cypher case against the PTI chief. The prosecution had to prove that what was the original and copy versions of the cypher, and that how his client had damaged the national security, he added.

To a court's query, the lawyer said that the cypher was received and handled by trained people as a common man could not read it.

Tourist places should be promoted: Governor Sindh

KARACHI (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori stressed the need for proper projection of tourist places in the province so as to attract local as well as foreign tourists to such sites, which would generate employment for the people living there.

This he said while talking with caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism, Environment and Climate Change Arshad Wali Mohammad at Governor House here on Thursday.

Steps to promote tourism in the province, provision of better facilities for tourists, minimizing affects of cli-

mate change and protecting natural environment were discussed in detail on the occasion.

The Governor Sindh said that there were many tourist spots in the province, including Gorakh Hill, which need effective publicity.

He asked the caretaker minister to activate Sindh Tourism Development Cooperation (STDC) for highlighting the places of interest of Tourists.

Especially, trained guides should also be assigned Moen-Jo-Daro and Makli graveyards to inform the visitors about their historic importance, the Governor added.



KARACHI: Caretaker Provincial Minister for Tourism, Environment and Climate Change Arshad Wali Mohammad meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Sindh Finance Minister for expediting public welfare, rehabilitation works

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Caretaker Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Development Muhammad Younus Dagha on Thursday directed to expedite work on public welfare projects and rehabilitation of flood affected infrastructure.

He was chairing a meeting regarding projects for the welfare of victims and the rehabilitation of infrastructure affected by the catastrophic floods of 2022 in Sindh. The projects included Sindh flood emergency rehabilitation project, the World Bank assisted Sindh Water and Agriculture Transformation (SWAT) project and the

Asian Development Bank supported Emergency Flood Assistance programme. The caretaker minister, on the occasion, stressed the need to take practical and result-oriented measures instead of spending more time and cost on the paper work so that the projects could be made operational at the earliest. The meeting was briefed that in the first phase of the rehabilitation work, the construction and repair of roads and the improvement of canals was being carried out. It was further informed that the canal system would be improved by using modern engineering methods to prevent wastage of water.

Caretaker Minister presides over important meeting



Independent Report
KARACHI: The Caretaker Minister for finance, revenue and planning and development Sindh Muhammad Younus Dagha presided over an important meeting regarding projects for the welfare of victims and rehabilitation of the infrastructure affected by the cata-

strophic floods of 2022 in Sindh province. The meeting was held in the Minister's office in Sindh secretariat Karachi.

The projects which were discussed during the briefing are (1) the Sindh flood emergency rehabilitation project, (2) the World Bank's assisted Sindh Water and Agricul-



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister, Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar exchanging views with Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador of Turkiye during meeting held in Islamabad.

Petrol price likely to increase by Rs20

ISLAMABAD (INP): The inflation-hit masses are all set to get another shock, as the prices of petroleum products are expected to see a staggering rise over the weekend.

A proposal prepared to increase the prices of petrol and diesel from September 16 has come to light. A working paper has been prepared for making changes in the prices of petroleum products.

Governor seeks report on firing incident near Sakhi Hassan

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori while taking notice of the reported firing incident near Sakhi Hassan has asked for a detailed report from Additional Inspector General of Karachi.

He also expressed his grief over the death of a seven-year-old girl Maryam in this incident, said a statement on Thursday.

Couple shot death in Korangi Karachi

KARACHI (INP): Unidentified armed man gunned down a couple inside their house in Korangi Industrial Area, police said on Thursday.

SSP Korangi Hassan Sardar Niazi said that unknown culprit barged into a residential house and shot dead Mishal Khan and his wife Kiran.

Pakistan accuses Afghanistan for 'misusing' transit trade facility

FO expresses concerns that customs duties and taxes are not paid as they should be

ISLAMABAD (INP): As the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan remains tense, the Foreign Office on Thursday accused the interim Afghan government of misusing the transit trade agreement.

Afghanistan is a landlocked country and relies on a transit trade agreement with Pakistan to do trade with the outside world.

However, at a weekly news briefing, Foreign Office Spokesperson Muntaz Zahra Baloch said that Pakistan had concerns that the transit trade facility was being misused. "We are concerned that the transit trade agreement between Pakistan and Afghanistan is being misused," the spokesperson said. "It is important for our customs authorities to ensure that any border trade that takes place complies with the understandings and agree-

ments that exist between Pakistan and Afghanistan and that such commercial activities do not contravene Pakistani laws," she added.

The main concern of Pakistan is that many goods Afghanistan imports through transit trade end up in Pakistan illegally.

"Our major concern is that sometimes the imports that are meant for Afghanistan are diverted back to Pakistan and the customs duties and taxes are not paid as they should be. So, there are certain concerns of our customs authorities that people are misusing the bilateral provisions that allow for trade with Afghanistan," she explained.

The concern over the misuse of a transit trade facility came at a time when the main border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan has remained shut for over a week.



ISLAMABAD: Interim Interior Minister, Sarfaraz Bugti called on Chairman Senate, Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani at Parliament House.

Chinese CG calls on Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Consul General of China in Karachi Yang Yundong called on the Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab in KMC head office on Thursday and discussed matters of mutual interest.

On this occasion, China's Vice Consul Xie Shuyue and M. Zheng Chao, Assistant Consul Chen Weilong were also present.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab welcomed the Consul General of China and the accompanying guests on their visit to KMC.

He said that Pakistan and China have good neighbourly relations, China has helped Pakistan in every tough time. China's cooperation with Pakistan in various fields is a great example of friendship.

Mayor Karachi Barrister Murtaza Wahab said that the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation is trying to provide quality civic facilities to the citizens and for this purpose, development works being done in different areas of the city.

Along with residential areas, industrial zones are also being developed. Karachi is the commercial hub of Pakistan and the centre of industrial and commercial activities.

The City of Karachi welcomes China's cooperation for infrastructure development and wants to learn from China's experience in local government affairs and urban development. Chinese investment companies will be provided with all possible facilities in Karachi.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Nawaz's return

After living in London in self-exile for the last four years, PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif is finally set to return to Pakistan next month. This is welcome news. This paper has time and again called on Mr Sharif to return and face political and legal realities and end the remote management of his party — both when the PML-N was in opposition and then in government.

That he is finally ready to return to the country and engage with his party and supporters face to face will come as a relief to his party's second-tier leadership that has spent the last year making too many trips to London to seek Mr Sharif's advice on several issues.

However, the country Mr Sharif is returning to is, in many ways, quite different to the one he left in 2019. The economy is in a historic mess and businesses are rapidly losing confidence. Households cannot pay their electricity and food bills.

The government is not generating enough revenue to address any of these serious challenges, and there are no quick fixes to the country's woes. Terrorism, too, is on the rise. The state of human rights in the country is dire. And political space is as narrow as ever.

In this grave situation, what message will Mr Sharif give to his supporters? How will he explain the last 16 months of the PML-N-led PDM government's performance?

How does he plan to counter the enormous support base of the incarcerated Imran Khan, who remains popular despite being pushed out of politics? Importantly, how will Mr Sharif proceed legally against the court cases against him?

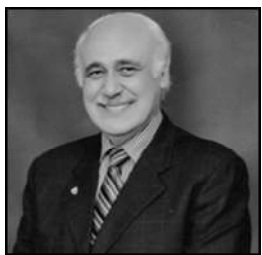
The return of the elder Sharif has often been linked to the timing of general elections in the country by members of his party. Now that he is returning, he must call for timely elections — and then face the decisions of a public that is angry and crushed by multiple economic burdens.

For many months after the PDM government came to power, it was speculated that the PML-N was afraid of elections because of how much political capital it had lost during Mr Sharif's prolonged absence, and later because of the PDM's inability to give relief to the public.

Though Mr Sharif's key rival has been removed from the political battlefield for now, the matter of the PML-N's bruised support remains. How he will galvanise his party, and persuade voters remains to be seen, but his party seems to think the 'Nawaz Sharif effect' itself will yield some positive results.

When he returns, Mr Sharif will not only have to explain why he left and stayed away from the country for four years, but also what his party plans to do to address the serious internal challenges the country is facing.

What's in a name?



F.S. Aijazuddin

Pakistan holds an unusual pack of cards. It has no kings. They have been either deposed, exiled, assassinated, or hanged. It has no queens. One potential qualifier Miss Fatima Jinnah was defeated by an armed dictator using rigged polls in 1965, and the second Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto was murdered on another's watch in 2007.

It has no jacks. They have either lost heart, swipe clubs against their opponents, or use spades to dig each other's graves. None sparkle like diamonds. All that Pakistan has left is a full deck of jokers.

Each day, we Pakistanis wake up to a false dawn, hoping that each new day will have forgotten yesterday. Each night, we sleep and dream of a utopia where gas and electricity flow like milk and honey. Were astrologers right when they advised Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to celebrate independence on Aug 15 rather than the unlucky 14th? Why did Nehru prefer the name India to the archaic Bharat or emotive Hindustan?

Those who wrote the Indian constitution gave their countrymen both the anglicised India and Sanskritised Bharat. Nehru preferred the former, and not because it could increase the sales of his book *The Discovery of India*.

His feel for the flow of history was too strong. He saw the vast subcontinent — from the top of the northern Himalayas to the southern tip of Cape Comorin — as a contiguous cultural, ethnic, spiritual whole. Not, as the Brit-

ish had done, as a colony consisting of princely states marooned in a sea of vanquished territories. Nor, as his successor PM Modi sees their country, through saffron-tinted lenses.

PM Modi has already demonstrated his electoral authority by redefining borders, revoking Article 370 and appropriating the contested area of Jammu & Kashmir. He now wants Nehru's secular India to convert into BJP's Hindutva Bharat, and Gandhi's charkha or spinning wheel to be replaced by Shiva's trishul or trident.

PM Modi's timing could not have been better. He had an audience of world leaders in New Delhi at the G20 summit. Two leaders to whom this change of name will make no difference are deliberate absentees from the G20 conclave: China's Xi Jinping and Russia's Vladimir Putin. To them, India by any other name still smells of regional hegemony.

Once before New Delhi was propelled into such prominence. In 1982, Mrs Indira Gandhi hosted the Asian Games. She commissioned a talented young designer called Rajeev Sethi to refurbish the tired city. He began with the airport where he hung cylindrical cloth tubes stamped with vivid colours drawn from a Rajasthani palette. India's welcome swung gaily above the heads of arriving visitors.

Outside, they were surprised to drive along four-lane highways rather than having to compete, as ambassador J.K. Galbraith put it, with 5,000 years of transport. Seventy-six years later, while India/Bharat is oscillating between names, we in Pakistan are still trying to achieve a cohesive identity and secure our place in the comity of nations.

We stood on the doorstep of BRICS and watched Ethiopia slip past us through the door. We

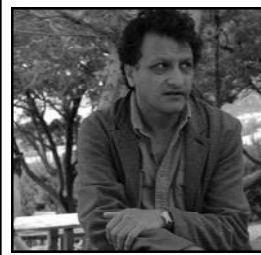
peered over the fence like some inquisitive neighbour while New Delhi celebrated its success at the G20 summit by admitting the 55 member states of the African Union (including Ethiopia) into its fold.

If we are honest with ourselves, we would accept that no one is genuinely fond of us. Who would baffle an importuning beggar whose survival depends on hand-outs?

Applying the maxim 'jam yesterday, jam tomorrow, but no jam today', yesterday, the Saudis, the UAE and China shored up our forex reserves with billions of dollars as deposits that cannot be spent and will have to be returned. We are assured that tomorrow, friendly Arab countries will commit \$100 billion to revivify our economy. Meanwhile today, an insecure interim government tries to convince lenders that we are still a bankable bet.

Without wishing to dilute the nation's optimism, would any country (however cash-heavy) be prepared to lend endlessly to an impecunious bankrupt, whose problems are painfully short-term and their solutions even more painfully long-term, but refuses to tackle either? Political parties demand elections, whenever. The PPP is ready and wants them within 90 days. Others prefer a longer gestation period. How can they assure voters, though, that the next parliament will be better than its predecessors? Or will it be the same rancid water poured in new bottles? Thousands of our educated and skilled citizens are not waiting for the next elections to cast their votes. They are voting with their feet, by migrating to whichever country will admit them — even Ethiopia. Our bankruptcy is not only fiscal. It is intellectual. We have 'an expenditure of words without an income of ideas'. — Courtesy Dawn

Healthy opportunity



Arif Azad

Next week, the UN is convening three high-level meetings on universal health coverage (UHC), tuberculosis (TB) and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) at its 78th General Assembly session.

These meetings are set to review the progress made on these intersecting global health challenges as they are tied to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the changed global pandemic architecture. They give heads of states and governments a chance to revisit the post-Covid global health landscape and recommit themselves to sustained action on the commitments enshrined in the political declarations on TB and UHC made in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

The 2019 declarations on UHC-SDG 3.8 set a target of reaching an additional one billion people by 2023 and reversing trends in medical impoverishment caused by out-of-pocket expenses. Yet the latest UHC commitment review's key findings suggest that progress on UHC has stalled and in some cases reversed. This state of play on the follow-up underscores the need for expedited action on delivering on political commitments on TB-SDG 3.3 — which are way off track. Covid has blown these goals off track.

The theme of the 2023 high-level meeting on TB is "advancing science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently end the global tuberculosis epidemic, in particular, by ensuring equitable access to pre-

vention, testing, treatment and care". At the 2023 meeting, progress on the targets set and achieved so far will be reviewed and a future action plan framed.

In the run-up to the 2023 high-level meeting, civil society groups voiced their expectations of the meeting in May in New York. The key policy asks which emerged out of the civil society consultation focused on reinforcing commitment to reaching all people affected by TB, accelerating research and development in new TB vaccine, drugs and diagnostic services, enhancing funding for TB programmes and prioritising TB across UHC, primary healthcare, pandemic prevention, preparedness and response and anti-microbial resistance.

The first UN high-level meeting on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response has assumed special urgency against the backdrop of the devastating impact of Covid-19 on health systems, SDGs, and pre-existing health inequalities. PPPR is especially important in relation to serious threats which future pandemics pose to the realisation of the SDGs, UHC and TB as demonstrated by the Covid pandemic. The Pandemic Action Network of civil society groups has called on heads of states for vigorous international action on pandemic preparedness in health and beyond health sectors in whole-of-system approach, as well as increasing ownership and accountability of pandemic preparedness and response plans, while ensuring the widest possible participation of civil society and others in these efforts. However, the draft of the political declaration has been described by health press and advocates as long on words and short on commitments and lacking in ambition. Specific actions have been

kicked down the line to 2026 when the UN will convene another high-level meeting to further deliberate on the state of pandemic preparedness. Three years is too long a period when it comes to pandemics, particularly when existing pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms have been found wanting in the Covid response.

More importantly, the publicly released draft of the political declaration does not include any specific financing targets for global and domestic health spending on pandemic preparedness and response. An even earlier proposal related to the establishment of an independent monitoring body to assess member-state compliance with the pandemic treaty and spending commitment has been done away with in the draft declaration.

UHC, the elimination of TB and new pandemic preparedness and response mechanisms are key to achieving the SDG goals, intersecting and interlinked with nature as they are. Therefore, the convening of three high-level meetings on these global health issues is a rare opportunity for world leaders and member states to tackle global health challenges in a synchronised and integrated way. Pakistan's caretaker government should show leadership and commitment to the broader idea of ensuring that no one is left behind in UHC drives and in accessing new TB vaccine and drugs and that the future pandemic response is robust, equitable and well financed. All this will require careful preparation, nimble-footed health diplomacy and political will at these important high-level meetings in September. Like other member states, Pakistan too should step up. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

PBF demands govt to refrain to increase POL prices by Sept 16

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Business Forum (PBF) has demanded the federal government to refrain itself of increasing the petroleum prices up to Rs 16/litre from 16th September, as institutions are trying their best to curb the artificial price of dollar. In the last few days dollar is on declining in the open market and we appreciated the commendable efforts of the institutions. The caretaker government had recently authorized price hikes for both petrol and diesel, propelling petrol prices to surpass the historic Rs300 per litre threshold for the first time in the country's history.

In a statement issued on Thursday, Chief Organizer PBF, Chaudhry Ahmad Jawad said in the last hike on September 1st cost duty and surcharge

of Rs 60 per litre were imposed as per requirement of the IMF-SBA. Now there was no any such reason for another hike because People of Pakistan and business community already struggling hard.

He also stressed the need for implementing structural reforms for good governance, curbing unproductive expenditures, expanding the tax base, fostering public-private partnerships, and reallocating resources to critical sectors to stimulate sustainable growth, as the country was facing with daunting economic challenges, posing a serious threat to the viability of the industry, in this regard the role of SIFC was appreciated to shape up the country's economy at the right direction.

PBF official Jawad observed that it was im-

perative to understand that fiscal discipline cannot be achieved and sustained without initiating structural reforms. In the 2023 budget, the government extended substantial subsidies and grants to loss-making entities, which, in turn, were not only failing to make positive contribution but were also incurring significant losses.

"We must maintain fiscal discipline and establish controls to create fiscal space to extend relief to the masses, Saleha said.

Quoting the reports, she said that the budget deficit continues to grow, entangling Pakistan in an unrelenting cycle of debt".

Even if we exclude the impact of debt servicing, our revenues fall short of covering other expenses, implying that all these were met from borrowed funds.

Bikes, three-wheelers sale plunges 18.56pc in July, August

ISLAMABAD (INP): The sale of motorbikes and three-wheelers in the country has witnessed a 18.56 per cent during the first two months of the current fiscal year (2023-24) as compared to the sale of the corresponding months of the last year. During the months under review, as many as 161,906 motorbikes and three-wheelers were sold against the sale of 198,824 units in July-August (2022-23), according to the Pakistan Automobile Manufacturing Association (PAMA).

The sale of Honda motorcycles dipped by 16.96 per cent from 165,090 units to 137,083 units whereas the sale of Suzuki motorcycles witnessed a decrease of 61.54 per cent from 6,967 units to 2,679 units during the months under review. Similarly, the sale of Yamaha motorbikes also went down from 2,501 units to 1,625 units witnessing a decline of 35.02 per cent.



KARACHI: A vendor sells grocery at a wholesale market in Karachi.

SECP shifts Regulatory Sandbox to "Always Open"

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) in order to broaden outreach has restructured its Regulatory Sandbox (RSB) from a cohort-based system to an open status, allowing applicants, including fintech and start-ups, to apply year-round. The applications will be received in three streams: Islamic finance, conventional finance, and women's-specific trades.

For the convenience

of applicants, SECP has developed a comprehensive, self-explanatory application format and diagnostic tool. These formats are available at the Sandbox section of SECP's website.

Restructuring of the sandbox was required to reflect its maturity and the lessons learned in the three plus years of its operations. The always open status will ensure continuity in partnerships and allows applicants to approach the RSB at the right point in

their development lifecycle. Potential applicants can now test the suitability of their proposed model through the diagnostic tool, build an application based on a self-explanatory format, and submit it at any time to the dedicated email at sandbox@secp.gov.pk. After undergoing a comprehensive evaluation, the applicants can be allowed to test their solutions for a period of six to nine months in a controlled environment.

Pakistan keen to enhance trade, investment relations with Iraq: Ahsan Zafar

ISLAMABAD (INP): President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari has said that Pakistan wants to strengthen its bilateral trade and investment relations with Iraq in the traditional and non-traditional sectors that would be mutually beneficial for both countries and Pakistan embassy in Iraq should cooperate with the business community in achieving this goal.

This was stated by him while talking to Pakistan's Ambassador-designate to Iraq Muhammad Zeeshan Ahmed, during his Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) on Thursday. Ahsan Zafar

Bakhtawari said that Pakistan and Iraq have good potential to develop strong cooperation in diverse fields including trade & industry, agriculture, tourism, energy, health, defence products, and can import oil from Iraq.

The ICCI President stressed that the Pakistan embassy in Iraq should identify the demand for Pakistani products and manpower in the Iraqi market and share such information with ICCI so that the business community could capture better market share in Iraq.



QUETTA: Vendor displaying and selling Papaya at his cart.

COAS done in few days what politicians, bureaucracy couldn't in decades: PEW

LAHORE (INP): Executive Director of Pakistan Economy Watch (PEW) Saifuddin Sheikh has said that all the credit goes to the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir for the continuous increase in the value of the rupee and the decrease in the price of sugar. In a statement issued on Thursday, he said that the Army Chief has also taken important steps to eliminate smuggling, money laundering, and speculation, which is restoring the confidence of the public and the business community.

Saifuddin Sheikh said that more measures should be taken to provide relief to the public and keep the dollar under control. The army chief has done in a few days what politicians and bureaucracy could not do in decades, he added. He supported the massive crackdown and showed 'zero

tolerance' towards smuggling and hoarding of essential commodities, due to which the price and availability of sugar are gradually becoming stable.

However, he expressed shock over the Punjab government's decision regarding the procurement of sugar at a significantly higher price of Rs 140 per kg from mill owners. Political conveniences have damaged the country's economy, he said, adding that merit has been compromised everywhere and many important institutions have become recruitment centres for political parties, due to which trillions of rupees are being lost annually. However, now the people have hope that General Asim Munir will change the situation, as he is determined to improve the economy and bring 100 billion dollars of foreign investment to Pakistan.

Senate body applauds Power Division for taking swift action against line losses, electricity theft

ISLAMABAD (INP): Meeting of Senate Standing Committee on Power Thursday applauded the Power Division for taking swift action against the line losses and electricity theft in different DISCOs.

The meeting held here at Old PIPS Hall Parliament Lodges with Senator Saifullah Abro in the chair. Additional Secretary, Power Division, Arshad Majid apprised that approximately around Rs one billion worth of recovery had been made in the last few days and the Power Division had also reshuffled the officers of various DISCOs to ensure its efficiency. Saifullah Abro said that the Power Division

should also reshuffled CEOs of DISCOs and BoDs of various authority, who allegedly had acted malafide and diminishing the capacity of power sector.

The senate body expressed annoyance over the non-implementation of the committee's recommendations relating to 765KV double circuit transmission line from Dasu Hydro Power Station to Islamabad.

The Additional Secretary, Power Division informed the ministry had constituted a committee to investigate the matter and the report would be submitted once it was completed. Saifullah Abro

reiterated that the committee had explicitly identified irregularities in bidding process for the 'Construction of 765KV double Circuit Transmission line from Dasu Hydro Power Station to Islamabad' but irony was that, despite making recommendations several times to take action against the alleged officials, Power Division had not taken any action.

He further said that formation of committee was prerogative of NTDC, and the letter written by the Power Division to World Bank for identifying procurement mismanagement in bidding process held no legal standing. Moreover,

the committee expressed displeasure over the absence of the Chairman, NEPRA and its Members and decided to issue summons for Chairman NEPRA and all its Members to attend next meeting. While discussing the details of CPEC power plants, the power division informed that sixteen power plants were part of the CPEC, with most of them being wind and solar based projects.

The committee inquired about the government stance on KAPCO Power Plant, whose contract expired in June 2021 with IPPs. Senator Saifullah Abro asked for clarification on how many

years the gas and RFO had been provided to KAPCO Power Plant. However, the power division failed to provide a response, he added. He recommended that the Power Division investigated allegations of illegal extension for KAPCO Power Plant.

Furthermore, the chairman committee lamented the power division for shutdown of the Muzaffargarh and Jamshoro power plants and for not supplying them with sufficient gas. Saifullah Abro remarked that one's could not apprehend how the Power Division planned to strive by shutting down public power plants.

Ambassador Haque says: CPEC transforms Pakistan's social economic landscape

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan's Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque said that the construction of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), the flagship project of the Belt and Road (BRI), has transformed Pakistan's socioeconomic landscape and brought tangible benefits to its people.

"The BRI paved the way for the principles of peaceful coexistence, good neighborliness, and win-win coop-

eration has also brought nations together in harmony, transcending differences and working towards shared prosperity," he told local media during his visit to the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top political advisory body.

The ambassadors and diplomats from 18 countries, including Laos, Kazakhstan, and

Uzbekistan participated in a thematic forum with CPPCC National Committee members to exchange views on the role of consultation in deepening Belt and Road cooperation.

The ambassadors said, "The Belt and Road Initiative China proposed 10 years ago has achieved tangible results and boosted win-win cooperation between China and participating countries."



BEIJING: The sculpture of Quaid-e-Azam, Muhammad Ali Jinnah was unveiled by Pakistan Ambassador to China, Moin ul Haque. It was masterfully crafted by renowned Chinese sculptor Master Yuan Xikun, symbolizing the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China at the Jintai Art Museum.

To make the polio campaign effective Special attention should be paid to micro plan: Agha

By Tanveer Ahmed Soomro

MIRPUR MATHELO: Deputy Commissioner Ghotki Agha Sher Zaman has said that to make the polio campaign effective in the district, special attention should be paid to the micro plan, including the inclusion of all lady health workers in the campaign, so that no one in the district is infected. The child should not be deprived of polio drops.

important meeting in connection with the polio campaign in his office. Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Sumeer Laghari and DHO Dr. Altaf Soomro along with all Assistant Commissioners and related officers participated in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that polio virus is a big challenge for the country, which has to be tackled with an effective strategy.

He said that to make the campaign effective, all the lady health workers Services should be procured and special attention should be given to micro-plans at the Union Council level so that no child misses out on polio drops.

He further said that routine immunization should be ensured, all vaccinators should be obliged to vaccinate new-born children compulsorily and any kind of negligence in this regard will not be acceptable.

PRCS conducts understanding climate change training workshop

MUZAFFARABAD (INP): The Pakistan Red Crescent Society (PRCS), AJK Chapter under its Climate Advocacy & Coordination for Resilient Actions (CACRA) project and with the generous support of the German Red Cross concluded a comprehensive two-day training workshop aimed at enhancing the understanding of climate change, climate-smart disaster risk management (DRM), and small grant proposal development.

The training was held here at a local hotel and was attended by fifteen volunteers of the Pakistan Red Crescent Society from five districts of Azad Jammu &

Kashmir (Neelum, Jhelum Valley, Rawalakot, Haveli and Mirpur). The training program was part of the PRCS AJK Chapter's ongoing efforts to strengthen the capacity of local communities to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change and to build resilience against natural disasters.

The training program was led by experienced facilitators and subject matter experts in climate change, DRM, and proposal writing, from Pakistan Red Crescent Society National Headquarters Islamabad ensuring that participants received instructions about subject matter.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM) are holding protest demonstration against killing of Afzal Lund and demanding justice for him, at Hyderabad press club.

Police officials encouraged to demonstrate dedication and commitment

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: The Senior Superintendent of Police (Operations) Malik Jameel Zafar has urged police officials to exhibit unwavering dedication to their professional responsibilities and prioritize addressing public concerns, a public relations officer said.

During the meeting, he emphasized the importance of unwavering dedication to their professional duties and highlighted that any form of negligence in fulfilling these responsibilities would not be tolerated.

Furthermore, the SSP (Operations) issued directives to all senior officers to maintain seamless coordination with their subordinate staff and promptly address the issues they faced. He also took the opportunity to outline the specific responsibilities of administrative officers within the districts and police stations.

He said that, following the special directions of Islamabad Capital City Police (ICCP) Dr Akbar Nasir Khan, the SSP Operations Malik Jameel Zafar holds a meeting with administrative officers, muharrars of police stations, readers, and OSIs from the office of the Divisional Police Officer (DPO).

More than 800 guests including the relatives of the couples attended the Walima ceremony. So far 497 families have benefited from the mass wedding facility under the auspices of the foundation. Provincial president, AKF KP, Khalid Waqas presided over the ceremony while Ameer Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan (JIP) Siraj-ul-Haq was chief guest on the occasion.

Prominent among those who attended the Walima of mass wedding ceremony were included vice president AKF Pakistan, Zakirullah Mujahid, General Secretary Haji Rizwanullah Mohmand, Mohammad Haleem Bacha, former KP minister Shah Raz Khan, former MNA Syed Bakhtiar Maani.

AKF organizes mass wedding ceremony for 21 destitute couples

PESHAWAR (INP): Al-Khidmat Foundation (AKF) organized a mass wedding ceremony for 21 destitute couples of the five districts of Malakand division.

The mass wedding ceremony of the orphans and destitute couples was organized in Rivaj Wedding Hall at Thana town of district Malakand, said a press release issued here on Thursday.

He presided over an important meeting in connection with the polio campaign in his office. Additional Deputy Commissioner Nawab Sumeer Laghari and DHO Dr. Altaf Soomro along with all Assistant Commissioners and related officers participated in the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that polio virus is a big challenge for the country, which has to be tackled with an effective strategy.

He said that to make the campaign effective, all the lady health workers Services should be procured and special attention should be given to micro-plans at the Union Council level so that no child misses out on polio drops.

He further said that routine immunization should be ensured, all vaccinators should be obliged to vaccinate new-born children compulsorily and any kind of negligence in this regard will not be acceptable.

D&SJ Ghulam Rasool Samon visits Police Facilitation Centre Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (APP): The District and Sessions Judge (D&SJ) Hyderabad Ghulam Rasool Samon along with SP Headquarters Shahnawaz Memon on Thursday visited different departments of the Police Facilitation Centre.

According to a Police official, the Incharge Police facilitation center along with his staff warmly welcomed the honourable guests and briefed them in detail.

D&SJ Ghulam Rasool while expressing his views said that Hyderabad Police under the leadership of SSP Amjad Ahmed Shaikh was setting up a good example of public service and ensuring different facilities in a pleasant atmosphere.

SP Shah Nawaz Memon presented traditional Sindhi topi, Ajrak, and a Shield to honorable guests while Distinguished guests also took part in a tree plantation drive by planting a sapling in the PFC courtyard.

Qayoom condemns terrorist attack in Mastung

SUKKUR (APP): Ex Senator Dr Abdul Qayoom Soomro has strongly condemned a terrorist attack in Mastung. In a statement on Thursday, he expressed deep sorrow over the injury of JUI-F leader Hafiz Hamdullah and other people in the blast. Terming the attack on JUI-F leader a dastardly act, he said that targeting innocent citizens and political personalities of the country were the cowardly acts and elements involved in terrorism do not deserve any leniency.



KARACHI: Government Contractor and Murad Ali Co. Owner, Mir Murad Ali Lehri addresses to media persons during press conference, at Karachi press club.

Police official buried with honor in Larkana

LARKANA (APP): A Police Constable Ghulam Abbas Brohi who got injured in an exchange of fire with robbers, on May 06 this year, while performing his duty at Kodrani post in the limits of WarisDino Machhi Police Station of Larkana district breath his last on Wednesday.

Shahdad Kot and Larkana Asif Raza Baloch, Chairman District Council Larkana Advocate Ejaz Ahmed Laghari, police officials, family members, people from all (different) walks of life attended the funeral.

A smartly turned-out contingent of the Larkana district police jawans presented the guard of honor while SSP Kamber-Shahdad Kot and Larkana Asif Raza Baloch laid wreaths at his grave.

On this occasion, SSP Larkana expressed sympathy and condolence to the relatives of the martyr.

He was laid to rest with police honors in his native village Pir Musafeer of Ratodero (Larkana), on Thursday.

The funeral prayer of the martyred constable was offered at the village Pir Musafeer of Ratodero (Larkana), SSP Kamber-

International News

US, Europeans again threaten Iran with IAEA resolution but leave timing open

Monitoring Desk
VIENNA: The U.S. and three European allies have threatened Iran with another resolution at the U.N. nuclear watchdog's board demanding action on issues such as explaining uranium traces found at undeclared sites, but left open whether or when they might follow through.

the presence of uranium particles at three undeclared sites, since narrowed down to two.

Western powers have recently condemned Iran for stonewalling the IAEA on that and other issues like the re-installation surveillance cameras removed last year, and for enriching uranium to up to 60% purity, close to weapons grade. But in parallel diplomats say the United States has held secret "de-escalation" talks with Iran, potentially muddying the waters.

Those de-escalation talks, which Washington does not acknowledge, cover issues such as Iran's recent slowdown of enrichment to 60% purity, frozen Iranian funds abroad, and a prisoner swap, diplomats say.

"If Iran fails to implement the essential and urgent actions contained in the November 2022 Resolution and the 4th March Joint Statement in full, the Board will have to be prepared to take further action in support of the (IAEA) Secretariat to hold Iran accountable in the future, including the possibility of a resolution," the four Western powers said in a statement to the 35-nation IAEA board.

Iran tends to bristle at resolutions against it and respond by expanding or accelerating its nuclear activities. Iran says its nuclear programme is strictly for peaceful uses. Western powers say there is no credible civilian explanation for it.



Microsoft President Brad Smith, Nvidia's chief scientist William Dally, and Professor Woodrow Hartzog wait to testify before a Senate Judiciary Privacy, Technology, and the Law Subcommittee hearing on "Oversight of A.I.: Legislating on Artificial Intelligence" on Capitol Hill in Washington, U.S.

China's defence minister, not seen in weeks, skipped Vietnam meet

Monitoring Desk
BEIJING: Chinese defence minister Li Shangfu abruptly pulled out of a meeting with Vietnamese defence leaders last week, three officials with direct knowledge of the matter said, amid questions about his more than two-week-long absence from public view.

Li, 65, was due to attend an annual gathering on defence cooperation hosted by Vietnam on its border with China on Sept. 7-8 but the meeting was postponed after Beijing told Hanoi days before the event that the minister had a "health condition," two Vietnamese officials said.

The sudden postponement of the meeting and the reasons cited by China are being reported by Reuters for the first time.

China's State Council Information Office, as well as its defence and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the Vietnam event. The Vietnamese embassy in Beijing couldn't immediately be reached for comment Thursday evening.

The abrupt cancellation of Li's trip follows China's unexplained replacement of Foreign Minister Qin Gang in July after a prolonged absence from public view and a shake-up of the leadership of the People's Liberation Army's elite Rocket Force in recent months, moves that have raised questions about the Chinese leadership's decision-making.

Qin's meteoric ascent through the ranks of the Communist Party was partly attributed to his closeness to President Xi Jinping, making his removal after just seven months on the job even more unexpected.

Chinese officials initially said Qin's absence from public view was due to health reasons.

F-35 fighter jets land in NATO member Denmark to replace F-16s, some of which will go to Ukraine

Monitoring Desk
COPENHAGEN: Four F-35 fighter jets landed Thursday at an airbase in Denmark in the first installment of the U.S.-made planes ordered by the NATO member to replace its aging fleet of F-16s, some of which have been promised to Ukraine.

Denmark said it would need to receive new F-35s first, and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said in August that she hoped the first six F-16s could be handed over to Ukraine around New Year.

Dignitaries and officers clapped as the planes, in Danish Air Force colors, did several flyovers before landing at the Skrydstrup Air Base.

Ukraine has been asking for Western fighter jets to help it resist the Russian invasion that began in February 2022. The United States recently gave its approval for Denmark and the Netherlands to provide Ukraine with the American-made jets.

Last month, the two countries said they would donate F-16 aircraft to Ukraine, with Denmark pledging 19 and the Netherlands an unspecified number. Denmark said it would need to receive new F-35s first, and Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen said in August that she hoped the first six F-16s could be handed over to Ukraine around New Year.



Members of a medical team from Kozhikode Medical College carry areca nut and guava fruit samples to conduct tests for Nipah virus in Maruthonkara village in Kozhikode district, Kerala, India.

US sanctions five Turkey-based firms in broad Russia action on over 100 targets

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: The Biden administration on Thursday imposed sanctions on five Turkish companies and a Turkish national, accusing them of helping Russia evade sanctions and supporting Moscow in its war against Ukraine.

target shipping and trade companies accused of helping repair sanctioned vessels tied to Russia's defense ministry and helping the transfer of "dual-use goods". The move is part of a bigger package of measures hitting Russia with sanctions on about 150 targets, including the country's largest carmaker.

Last-ditch hunt for Morocco quake survivors

Monitoring Desk
INEGHEDE: Rescue teams stepped up on Wednesday a massive effort in devastated Moroccan mountain villages as chances fade for finding survivors from last week's earthquake which killed 2,900 people and left many homeless.

Vehicles packed with supplies were inching up winding mountain roads to deliver desperately needed food and tents to survivors of the nation's strongest quake on record and deadliest in more than six decades.

Smaller quakes are still rattling the disaster zone and one sent stones falling in the village of Imi N'Tala, where a person was injured following the jolt, journalists saw. Search teams were still scouring the rubble for the living. Morocco is now well past the 72-hour window when rescues are considered most likely.

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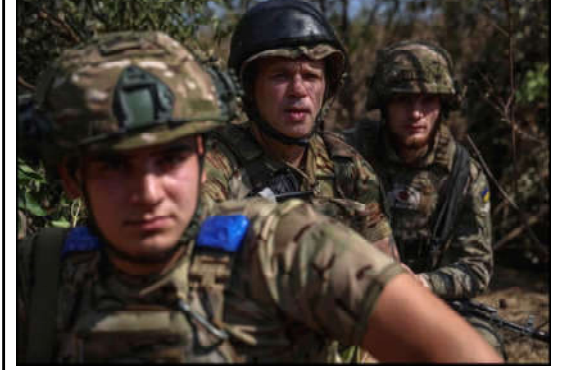
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Chinese officials initially said Qin's absence from public view was due to health reasons.



Ukrainian servicemen of the Spartan Brigade of the National Guard of Ukraine are seen at a position at a front line, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Zaporizhzhia region, Ukraine.

Religious hatred 'totally unacceptable', UN chief says on return from G20 summit in India

Monitoring Desk
UNITED NATIONS: UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, responding to a question about the recent attacks against Muslims and Christians in India, said Wednesday that religious hatred was "totally unacceptable".

ties by Hindu extremists in India.

"Well, I had no meeting with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi — There was no bilateral meeting during the summit," the secretary-general told a crowded press conference to set the scene for next week's high-level UN General Assembly's debate.

"But", he added, "our position is clear: Religious intolerance is a violation of human rights that is totally unacceptable." In his opening remarks, the UN chief had a clear message for world leaders arriving in New York next week.

The UN chief, back from his trip to New Delhi for the G20 leaders' summit, was asked by a Pakistani journalist whether in light of the summit's declaration, which deplored all acts of religious hatred, he raised with the Indian leadership the recent violence against the minori-

ties by Hindu extremists in India.

"Well, I had no meeting with Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi — There was no bilateral meeting during the summit," the secretary-general told a crowded press conference to set the scene for next week's high-level UN General Assembly's debate.

"But", he added, "our position is clear: Religious intolerance is a violation of human rights that is totally unacceptable." In his opening remarks, the UN chief had a clear message for world leaders arriving in New York next week.



ISLAMABAD: President Dr. Arif Alvi addressing the Annual Ambassadors' Dinner, organized by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Chief of UNICEF's professional team calls on Sindh Governor

KARACHI (APP): Governor Kamran Khan Tessori has said that projects of UNICEF are helping children of the province in getting better health and education facilities.

This he said while talking with UNICEF Professional Team Chief Prem Bahadur Chand at Governor House here Thursday.

UNICEF projects, provision of better health and education facilities to children, training of teachers and health professionals and other matters of mutual interests were discussed in detail on the occasion.

The Governor Sindh said that UNICEF cooperation in the fields of health and education is commendable and steps are being taken with the help of UNICEF to provide better facilities to children.

Prem Bahadur Chand praised the welfare measures of Governor Sindh and also rang bell of hope with Governor Sindh.

The head of UNICEF's professional team inspected ration bags of the Taqatwar Pakistan programme.

He also witnessed the construction of a marquee for IT classes.



RAWALPINDI: H.E. Mehmet Pacaci, Ambassador to Turkiya called on Minister for Defence Lt. Gen. Anwar Ali Hyder (Retd) in Ministry of Defence.

SBP keeps policy rate unchanged at 22%

KARACHI (APP): State Bank of Pakistan, Thursday, decided to maintain the policy rate at 22% owing to declining inflation, improving agriculture outlook and economic activity, and positive impacts of administrative and regulatory measures against price hike and speculative activity in commodity and forex markets.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) that met here at SBP, stressed on maintaining a prudent fiscal stance to keep aggregate demand in check and termed it necessary to bring inflation down on a sustainable basis and to achieve the medium-term target of 5-7 percent by the end-FY25.

The MPC vowed to continue monitoring the risks to the inflation outlook and take appropriate action, if required, to achieve the objective of price stability, said a statement issued here by the central bank following the MPC meeting.

The MPC decided to

keep the policy rate unchanged while taking into account various factors including the latest inflation outturn that reflected a continuing declining trend in inflation from its peak of 38 percent in May to 27.4 percent in August 2023.

Even though global oil prices have risen recently and are now hovering over the \$90/barrel level while the rise was being passed on to consumers through adjustments in energy prices, inflation is projected to remain on a downward trajectory, especially from the second half of this year, the MPC observed adding that real interest rates continue to remain in positive territory on a forward-looking basis as well.

The committee was confident that the expected ease in supply constraints owing to better agriculture output and the recent administrative measures against speculative activity in the FX and commodity markets would also support the inflation outlook.



LARKANA: Members of Rikshaw Union are holding protest demonstration against price hike of LPG Gas by shopkeepers and retailers, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.

Court approves bail of PTI leader Asad in cipher case

ISLAMABAD (Online): Judge Abul Hasnaat Zulqarnain of special court has approved bail of PTI leader Asad Umar against surety bonds in the sum of Rs 50000 in cipher case.

The bail pleas of chairman PTI, Shah Mehmood Qureshi and Asad Umar who are nominated in cipher case came up for hearing in special court of Islamabad Thursday.

Special prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi appeared before the court.

When the hearing started FIA prosecutors requested the court to adjourn the hearing taking the plea they have to go to Supreme Court therefore interval should be observed during the hearing.

PTI counsel while raising objection said when these people are busy then

we are present in the courts and when they are free then we will be busy in high court.

The court while rejecting the prosecutor Zulfiqar Naqvi for interval during the hearing directed PTI lawyers to give arguments on the bail plea.

The court fixed the time of 10.15 a.m for giving arguments.

Prosecution Zulfiqar Naqvi said to court accused join the investigation and investigator does not go after any one.

They have not joined the investigation so far. Had they joined investigation, they would have been declared innocent.

The court inquired from prosecution you had opportunity then why did you not do so.

SC returns PTI's petition regarding elections

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Registrar Office of the Supreme Court on Thursday raised objections on the constitutional petition of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) seeking general elections within 90 days of the assemblies' dissolution and returned it.

The Registrar Office objected that the petitioner had not approached the relevant forums before filing the case in the SC.

It also raised the objection on naming President Arif Alvi as respondent, observing that the head of the state could not be made a part of the petition under Article 248. Moreover, it was also not mentioned which fundamental right of the petitioner was violated, the Registrar Office added.

The petition also did not meet the requirements seeking the apex court's proceedings under Article 184/3, it said.

Pakistani pilgrims facing difficulties at Iraqi border

ISLAMABAD (Online): Millions of Pakistani pilgrims entered Iraq through Iran on the occasion of Arbaeen Hussaini. Returning Pakistani pilgrims are facing difficulties at the Chazabeh border.

According to sources, the pilgrims are short of food and water in the heat of 46 degrees Celsius. Women and children are facing very difficult situation in extreme heat neither water nor food nor phone signals are there.

Pilgrims have appealed for help from the Pakistani embassy in Iraq. On the other hand, 18 Pakistani pilgrims are stuck at Baghdad Airport and are not getting return tickets.

DC vows to take action against profiteers, hoarders

SUKKUR (APP): Deputy Commissioner (DC), Fayaz Hussain Mahesar Thursday directed the authorities concerned to remain vigilant against profiteers and hoarders and take strict action against them. Presiding over a meeting at his office, he said that no one would be allowed to cheat the general public and strict action would be taken against profiteering or against those who were creating artificial shortage to gain more profit.

He urged the public to check price of edibles and if they found that anyone involved in profiteering, register complaint at Assistant Commissioner office.

Authority took strict notice of irregularities in billing of DISCOs

KARACHI: Authority took strict notice of the irregularities observed in the billing of DISCOs.

The Authority has formulated a high level committee to check the performance of all DISCOs in light of the recent discrepancies and other issues in DISCOs submit detailed report within one month.

The CEOs explained irregularities and intimated that action against the relevant officers/officials has already been initiated.

The Authority also directed all CEOs to eradicate all such billing issues and provide relief to the consumers on an urgent basis.

The Authority on the basis of the report will initiate legal proceedings against those DISCOs where irregular bills have been issued.

Complaint against five judges including CJP designate Qazi Faez filed in SJC

ISLAMABAD (Online): Complaint has been lodged against five judges including Chief Justice designate Qazi Faez Isa in Supreme Judicial Council (SJC).

Before taking oath as Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) a complaint has been lodged against designate CJ Qazi Faez Isa in SJC under article 209 of the constitution.

The other judges against whom complaint has been filed in SJC include Justice Mazhar Ali Naqvi of Supreme Court (SC), Justice Amin ud Din Sheikh, Chief Justice Lahore High Court (LHC) Justice Amir Hussain Bhatti and judge LHC Justice Ali Zia Bajwa.

PPP serves show cause notice to estranged CEC member Latif Khosa

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has issued a show cause notice to Sardar Latif Khosa, its Central Executive Committee (CEC) member and senior lawyer on Thursday.

Latif Khosa and Aitzaz Ahsan, have been at odds with the party leadership over their support to former prime minister Imran Khan in his legal troubles. Earlier, both senior lawyers were invited to attend the CEC meeting in Lahore on September 14 (today).

"Latif Khosa has been

Separate stance has been taken in the complaint with regard to every judge among five judges.

SC lawyer Hashim Sabir Raja has filed the complaint.

He has taken plea in the complaint that chief justice designate Qazi Faez Isa has not provided details of accounts of his wife from the date of his becoming judge of Balochistan High Court so far. Therefore complaint against him be accepted and proceedings be initiated against him. He should be stopped from working.



MoU signed between Sir Syed University and Pakistan Business Group Organization.

MoU inked between Sir Syed University and Pakistan Business Group Organization

Independent Report KARACHI: Sir Syed University of Engineering & Technology (SSUET) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Pakistan Business Group Organization to promote mutual understanding and scholarly collaboration by supporting academic activities among faculty and students of Sir Syed University. Areas of cooperation include joint research, Final Year Projects, seminars, workshops, an annual job fair participation, orientation/awareness sessions, job placement of young graduates, internship programs, industrial visits, etc.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Wali Uddin said that the universities play an important role in teaching and learning, research and technology, providing professional training for high-level jobs, as well as the education necessary for the development of the personality. Sir Syed University is focusing on Transformative Education to find practical ways to develop future aspects in the educational practices of the present.

President of Pakistan Business Group Organization,

Nasir Shaikh said that PBGO aims to make Pakistan's economy strong and to create opportunities for Young Entrepreneurs to accelerate and promote their businesses both locally and internationally. PBGO membership gives access to mentors, other business professionals, and a whole host of courses through our various collaborations to help you build your skills and confidence.

On the auspicious occasion, Mr. Fawad sheikh, Vice President PBGO, Mr. Ali Arsh Khan, General Secretary PBGO, Mr. Mohammad Irfan Dalia, Core committee PBGO and Ms. Hiba Khan, Chairperson Youth Wing PBGO touched on different aspects of the agreement of mutual interest to promote higher education and encourage creative endeavors and potential of youth through various collaboration.

Registrar Commodore Engr. Syed Sarfraz Ali SI (M) signed the MoU on behalf of Sir Syed University, while President Nasir Shaikh, signed the agreement for the Pakistan Business Group Organization.



HYDERABAD: EDHI officials distributing food package among deserving people at Khurshheed Town area in City.

Peace, equitable development inevitable to attract trade, stop brain drain: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Dr Arif Alvi on Thursday while calling the international responsibility for peace a foundation for trade, urged the world to ensure equitable development across the world to address the issue of brain drain from developing countries.

The president, addressing the Annual LCCI Ambassadors' Dinner 2023, exemplified Europe saying that by enhancing mutual trade, the world had moved towards peace but it required enhanced efforts to create an enabling atmosphere all around. He said Pakistan, being the fifth largest country in the world did not need any charity but the trade with the international world.

He said Pakistan desired the developed world to share its expertise in information technology with Pakistan as pursuing the ideals of "one humanity", they should spend their re-

sources for the betterment of the people outside their borders too. President Alvi said the brain drain made the nations lose competent individuals despite having spent huge resources on their education.

The provision of equitable development would help such individuals to contribute to their own countries. Recounting Europe's journey to get rid of war, the president said women and children had always been the major casualties of conflicts, and the establishment of peace required the elimination of exploitation. Highlighting the double standards, the president said the signing of peace conventions and their violations could not go on simultaneously.

He said the world must focus on enhancing cooperation for the betterment of the next generations as all the world religions preached human ser-

vice. President Alvi said that as artificial intelligence was impacting human decision-making, it required timely efforts to tackle the challenge before it got out of control.

He urged the diplomats to persuade their respective business communities to take advantage of Pakistan's renewed commitment to attract investment with a particular focus on a few sectors through a one-window facility. Calling for attention to human development, the president advised the business community to enhance employment opportunities for women and persons with disabilities. He said the information technology had eased bank account opening and financial transactions for women, it was the business community's responsibility to create a conducive atmosphere for women's physical movement.

PML-N gearing up to make Nawaz's return historic

LAHORE (INP): Welcoming the announcement of Mian Nawaz Sharif's return to Pakistan, a crucial meeting of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, held under the chairmanship of party's chief organiser and Senior Vice President Maryam Nawaz, affirmed Thursday that the three-time prime minister would pull the country out of the crises it was in.

The meeting, which took stock of the preparations and arrangements being made to welcome party head Mian Nawaz Sharif, warned the nation to beware of the tricksters, liars, fraudsters and the propaganda run by Toshakhana thieves. The participants of the meeting, including former members of the National and Provincial assemblies and party ticket holders, were of the considered view that only Nawaz Sharif could offset the dark clouds of economic woes.

He said that the countries which cherished and implemented the democratic values had touched the height of prosperity and development.

Raja Pervez said "Pakistan has been blessed with energetic and talented youth bulge which will lead Pakistan on the path of development and progress," he expressed these views in his message on the International day of Democracy.



KARACHI: UNICEF Professional Team Chief Prem Bahadur Chand meeting with Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori at Governor House.

Democracy in Pakistan owes a lot to sacrifices offered by SZAB, Benazir Bhutto: Raja

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Raja Pervez Ashraf Thursday said that democracy had rendered itself as best form of government across the world.

He said that the countries which cherished and implemented the democratic values had touched the height of prosperity and development.

Raja Pervez said "Pakistan has been blessed with energetic and talented youth bulge which will lead Pakistan on the path of development and progress," he expressed these views in his message on the International day of Democracy.

The speaker said the nation would always remain indebted to Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto for their historic struggle and sacrifices for ensuring democracy in the country.

He expressed that they firmly believed that all powers to determine the destiny of the nation rest with people and it was well documented in the annals of the history that they never compromised on it.

Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was the one who bestowed this nation with first democratic and unanimous Constitution.

Commissioner directs to resolve HESCO related issues under one window operation

HYDERABAD (APP): Divisional Commissioner Khalid Hyder Shah has directed Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) officials to take practical steps to resolve public grievances including the correctness of detection bills, collection of bills in instalments under one window operation so as to prevent electricity theft and ensuring recovery of arrears from defaulters.

These instructions were given during a meeting of the divisional enforcement committee

chaired by him on Thursday at Shahbaz Hall, Hyderabad.

The meeting was attended by DIG Police Hyderabad Range Tariq Razaq Dharejo, all Deputy Commissioners of the division, SSPs, HESCO officers and other relevant authorities.

While addressing the meeting, Khalid Hyder Shah emphasized the HESCO authorities to improve its system and implement effective operational procedures for bill collections.



HYDERABAD: Pakistani Medical Association Sindh General Secretary, Dr. Pir Manzoor addresses to media persons during press conference, at Hyderabad press club.

ACF Animal Rescue denounces baseless allegations against foundation

KARACHI (INP): The founder of ACF Animal Rescue, Ayesha Chundrigar has strongly denounced the baseless accusations and defamatory statements against the foundation published by Sadia Ghori despite her bogus case has been disposed off by the court. In a condemnatory statement on Thursday, she said the ACF Animal Rescue's legal defense clearly states that attacking the integrity of ACF was causing irreparable damage to their reputation. Contrary to the fabricated statements presented, there is no legal offense that has been committed by ACF as acknowledged by the court of law,

but the people of Empress Market are still being incited by the same person with defamatory videos against ACF Animal Rescue, where they are trying to help the animals.

"We work in the most holistic way possible to help animals and people, and all the hard work that we have done in the past 10 years to bring animal welfare in Pakistan is at risk because one person is trying to manipulate and twist our efforts and bring us down. This has forced us to stop rescues for over 10 days now but due to the baseless accusation being continued by the same person.