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Business leaders, Gen Asim discuss economic initiatives COAS emphasizes SIFC potential to attract substantial investments of up to 100 billion dollars

Assures that money exchanges would be brought under the purview of taxation, fostering transparency in dollar exchange and interbank rates

LAHORE (APP): Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry (LCCI) President Kashif Anwar alongside prominent business figures met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Asim Munir, here on Sunday.

Caretaker Punjab Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi also attended the meeting in which country's economic trajectory was discussed in detail. LCCI spokesman confirmed this to the media.

During the meeting, General Asim Munir highlighted the pivotal role of the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC), emphasizing its potential to attract substantial invest-

ments of up to 100 billion dollars from countries such as Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and others. To bolster economic decision-making, he revealed the formation of task forces focused on economic matters and different sectors.

Kashif Anwar, in alignment with the broader business community, recommended active engagement with all chambers to incorporate diverse perspectives into the task force's agenda.

Addressing critical issues faced by the public, Kashif Anwar proposed a reduction in income and sales tax rates on electricity bills. He

noted that the populace grapples with the burden of high taxation on electricity, impacting daily lives, businesses and common people.

Additionally, Kashif Anwar introduced a pragmatic approach to fuel adjustment charges, advocating for their collection during the winter months when electricity consumption is lower, alleviating financial stress on consumers.

Recognizing the pivotal role of exchange rates in Pakistan's economic landscape, the LCCI President called for greater control over the rates of the US dollar in both interbank and open markets.



KARACHI: A delegation led by President of Fincantieri Group of Italy General Claudia Graziano meeting with Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori. Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferraarese and Consul General Danilo Glurdanella were also present on this occasion.

Govt providing all facilities to investors in Sindh: Tessori

KARACHI (INP): Governor Sindh Kamran Khan Tessori has said that the government was providing possible facilities to investors in the province.

This was stated by him while talking to President of Fincantieri Group of Italy General Claudia Graziano who called on him at the Governor House in Karachi on Sunday.

During the meeting, the investment opportunities in Sindh, Pak-Italy re-

lationships and other matters of mutual interest came under discussion.

Kamran Tessori invited the Fincantieri group to invest in the vast business opportunities present in the province especially Karachi, which is an economic hub of the country.

Italian Ambassador Andreas Ferraarese and Consul General Danilo Glurdanella were also present on this occasion.

Situation in GB completely peaceful: Murtaza Solangi

Caretaker Information Minister's denies army deployment in G-B

ISLAMABAD (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Murtaza Solangi said on Sunday that situation in Gilgit-Baltistan was completely peaceful and speculative news about deployment of Pakistan Army were completely baseless. In a post on his X account, quoted a statement released by the Home Department of Gilgit-Baltistan which said "it has been clarified that the situation in Gilgit-Baltistan is completely peaceful.

All roads, trade centers, business activities and educational institutions in Gilgit-Baltistan are open as usual, Solangi said in the statement. The services of Pakistan Army and Civil Armed Forces have been requisitioned only to maintain law and order on the eve of Chehlam of Hazrat Imam Hussain (A.S).

The minister said that services of the Pakistan Army and the civil armed

forces had been requisitioned "only to maintain law and order" on the eve of the chehlam.

"Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and imambargahs as per past practice," he said. The minister said that the GB home department had also stated that Section 144 had been imposed across the region to maintain law and order, protect lives and property of the people and avoid any untoward incident. Moreover, special measures have been taken for the security of the procession routes and imambargahs as per the past practice, he maintained.

It has been further stated by the GB Home Department that Section 144 of CrPC 1898 has been imposed across the region to maintain law and order, protect the lives and property of the people and avoid any untoward incident, he remarked.

May 9 was an attempt to stage a coup: PM Kakar

ISLAMABAD (NNI): Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar has said that what happened in the country on May 9 this year was an attempt to stage a coup and civil war.

In a programme of a private news channel, he said that the target of the May 9 incidents was the current Army Chief and his team. The caretaker prime minister said that he did not want to give the impression that any revenge was being taken on the May 9 accused.

"But, if action is not taken according to the law against the political party willing to resort to violence and violate the laws of the country, [then] we will be seen as a party to this matter," he stated.

"Electricity is not an issue on which there should be a wheel-jam strike. We have a lot of sympathy for the segment of the society that is burdened with electricity bills," he remarked.

He said that the decision regarding closing the shops at night would be taken by taking the provinces into confidence.



KARACHI: Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab cutting inaugural ribbon during the inauguration of Girls Cycling Parade organized by Town Municipal Corporation Lyari in connection of Defence Day coming ahead, in Karachi.

Educational system to be put on right track via evaluating ability of teachers: Madad

KARACHI (INP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhhi has said that the educational system would be put on the right track through evaluating the ability of teachers.

Speaking to media persons during his visit to the Karachi Press Club (KPC) here Sunday, he said that the education and ability of the teachers would be checked in the educational institutions including the universities of the country.

Madad Ali Sindhhi said that a grand provincial meeting had also been convened to discuss the matters of education and vowed to improve the quality of education.

Education was the provincial subject after the 18th Amendment, he said replying to a question and adding that Sindh, Punjab and other provinces had reservations over history subjects and they wanted to put the personalities, they considered to include them in the curriculum.

Regarding private educational institutions, he said that the fees of the private schools must be reasonable.

To another question, he said that the Federal Urdu University was facing crisis and many employees of the University were not receiving pensions.

Earlier, talking about the issues of the journalists, he advised his interim government to announce a permanent fund for the journalists, who give their twenty years to a media outlet, to meet their expenses as a 'Guzara Allowance.'

He said that he would ensure the provision of scholarships to the children of the journalist community. Madad Ali Sindhhi said that he considered the Karachi Press Club as his home and would make all-out efforts to get the issues of journalists resolved.

KPC President Saeed Sarbazi and Secretary Shoaib Ahmed were also present on the occasion.



BHITSHAH: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training, Madad Ali Sindhhi addresses during Latif Adabi Conference organized by Culture Department of Sindh on the occasion of 280th Urs Celebration of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai in Bhitshah.

PPP's decides to focus on Punjab before the elections

LAHORE (Online): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has decided to focus all attention on Punjab province before the general elections.

According to a private TV report, former President Asif Ali Zardari and Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto will visit Lahore soon, during which the CEC meeting of Pakistan People's Party will be held in Lahore, with the aim of activating the party in Punjab. The meeting was decided on the failure of the provincial leadership.

Sources said that Asif Ali Zardari will hold meetings with party leaders and office bearers in Lahore, in which consultations will be held on appointments to party posts in the province, strategies for public relations campaign will also be decided before the elections.

The proposal to hold a party convention during Asif Zardari's visit to Lahore is also under consideration. Sources have said that the party leadership is deeply disappointed with the performance of the People's Party Punjab, as it was expected that important figures from Punjab would join the PPP, but before the election, the PPP has not achieved any major success in Punjab, the main reason of which has been attributed to the failure of the Punjab leadership to activate the party in the province.

Sources further said that the PPP officials in Punjab are suffering from mutual infighting, the party is being affected by the quarrels of the provincial officials.

No electoral alliance with any party: PPP

THATTA (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Sindh President Nisar Ahmed Khuroo declared that the PPP would not form any alliances with other parties, including the PML-N. Addressing a press conference in Thatta, Khuroo emphasised that the PPP would contest the general elections independently.

Khuroo stated that the introduction of a presidential system in the country would require constitutional amendments. "If anyone is daring enough to challenge the constitution, he should demonstrate conviction by bringing forward the presidential system," he warned.

He admitted that opposition alliances have been forming against the PPP, but remarked that such unity is a sign of desperation before the elections.

IMF conditions, govt considers Rs.5 price hike electricity tariff

ISLAMABAD (Online): The federal government is considering increasing the basic electricity tariff by Rs 4.96 paise per unit during this month to meet the terms of the agreement with the IMF, which will be borne by the consumers.

According to media reports, the federal government will decide to impose basic tariff and additional electricity burden on consumers after receiving subsidy concession from IMF.

The decision taken by NEPRA (National Electricity Power Regulatory Authority) on the request of electricity distribution companies, if the decision is implemented, the domestic consumers will have a slab-wise burden.



KARACHI: Inspector General (IG) Sindh, Riffat Mukhtar presides over a high-level meeting, at CPO Headquarters in Karachi.

Pakistan facing exterior challenges: Aneeq Ahmed

Says Quran, Sunnah only solution to sufferings of countrymen

KARACHI (APP): Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed on Sunday said that Pakistan was facing some exterior challenges.

He said that they came into power on August 17 and the incident of Jaranwala occurred on August 16.

The minister, during his visit to Jamia Banoria Aalmania addressing the students, said, "We will not let Pakistan become Modi's India."

He said that the teachings of Islam were only the solution to socioeconomic challenges being dealt with by the nation.

The minister said that the Ulema could spread the message of love and peace across the globe.

He said that Islam teaches us to love and respect others.

INP add: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed has said that teachings of Holy Quran and Sunnah are only solution to the socio-economic and moral problems faced by the countrymen.

This was stated by him while addressing a ceremony organized in Karachi on Sunday.

Aneeq Ahmed urged Ulema to spread the message of Islam as they have the strength to take this message in every nook and corner of the society.

Karachi police seize tanker filled with Iranian diesel

KARACHI (INP): Karachi police have foiled a bid to smuggle Iranian diesel, worth Rs9.6 million, into the city on Sunday. The police during an action in the city's Orangi Town area, seized an oil tanker filled with 31,000 Iranian diesel worth Rs9.6 million.

DIG Fida Mastoi said Muhammad Qasim and Muhammad Yaseen have been arrested and handed over to the Pakistan Customs authorities. On Friday, Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) Anwaarul Haq Kakar directed the customs authorities and law enforcement agencies to strictly curb the smuggling of sugar, petroleum products, urea, agricultural products and other items. The caretaker premier issued the directives while chairing a high-level meeting regarding smuggling control in border areas.

Caretaker Federal Minister for Trade Gohar Ejaz, Minister for Interior Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Minister for Petroleum Muhammad Ali, Advisor to the PM Ahmed Cheema, federal secretaries.



KARACHI: Insan Dost Welfare Chairman, Qais Mansoor Sheikh is providing free petrol to motorcyclists amid rising inflation, at a fuel station located on Orangi Town in Karachi.

Indonesian diplomatic reception held

KARACHI (APP): The Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Karachi, under the leadership of Dr June Kuncoro Hadiningrat, hosted a Diplomatic Reception in commemoration of the 78th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Indonesia. The event was held at a local hotel and attended by the diplomatic corps in Karachi, representatives of the Sindh Government, business, education and media communities and Pakistani colleagues.

The caretaker Minister of Home and Prison, Bring (ret'd) Haris Nawaz as chief guest joined the event along with officials from the Sindh Government and Diplomatic Community in Karachi.

The event shows a celebration of cultural diversity, strengthening diplomatic ties and fostering

goodwill between Indonesia and Pakistan. The Indonesian Consul General, Dr. June Kuncoro Hadiningrat delivered a heartfelt speech, that deliberated the cooperation between Indonesia-Pakistan through joint research, scholarships from Indonesia to Pakistanis, gastronomy, and Indonesia's commitment to allocate a bigger import quota of rice from Pakistan.

Haris Nawaz also expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Indonesia for the support and camaraderie shared with Pakistan.

A joint collaboration by Indonesian and Pakistani students under the Indonesia-Pakistan Children Friendship enthrall the audience with a captivating dance performance of Tari Piring (plate dance), showcasing the vibrant cultural diversity of Indonesia.



directors of the department to complete all ongoing development schemes in stipulated period in order to facilitate the people.

This he said while presiding over a meeting here at the office of Chief Engineer Irrigation Kotri Barrage Region Hyderabad.

Secretary Irrigation Zareef Ahmed Khero and all chief engineer, project directors and other officers also attended the meeting. He also asked them to send emergent schemes which were required to be

implemented to face flood and rain emergency.

Caretaker Minister for Irrigation Ishwar Lal assured them that no transfer/posting would be made, asking them to develop image of Sindh Irrigation Department and bring good name for the department as well.

However he warned them that he would not tolerate any corruption in the department and only those officers would stay in the department who would work honestly.

Caretaker Minister Ishwar Lal said that he would hold such meetings every month to review the progress of the officers.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Aneeq Ahmed addresses to teachers, students at Jamia Banoria Almania.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

More action, please

The caretaker prime minister has faced a major challenge managing public expectations over the past week or so. When protests over the significant increase in electricity tariffs had first broken out, Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar moved quickly to assuage the public's concerns, promising the people he would secure some manner of relief. It appears he hadn't done his homework on the state of the country's finances. Having received a reality check from his cabinet and the IMF, he is now telling the people that they "have to pay the bills". But many of those bills had already been burnt. Many are also likely to have become overdue, incurring additional penalties as citizens waited for the PM to deliver. It is a bad look for Mr Kakar, who has inadvertently ended up causing more trouble rather than solving anything. Perhaps the episode should serve as a lesson on how even the best of intentions can end up exacerbating public harm.

It may not be within Mr Kakar's means to deliver any instant 'relief', but he is still responsible for steering the country during these fraught times. Instead, as the man tasked with 'taking care' of Pakistan till elected representatives are sworn in, he seems a little detached from ground realities. On Friday, Mr Kakar told a delegation of journalists and TV anchors that he sees the breakout of public protests against rampant inflation as a manoeuvre orchestrated by political parties. "I realise their position. If I were to contest the [upcoming] election, I would have done the same," he is reported to have said. If nothing else, the statement speaks volumes about the perspective with which the PM is assessing the situation. But the desperate citizenry is no opportunity for politicians to squeeze for electoral gain; it is a grave threat to the country's stability.

Mr Kakar need only read the Ministry of Finance's Fiscal Risk Statement 2023-24 to understand how big a risk inflation poses to the country's external stability. The report highlights that uncertainty surrounding energy prices is "the main upside risk" to Pakistan's inflation outlook. In simpler terms, unless the dollar somehow stops appreciating and global fuel prices suddenly decline, the people in charge in Islamabad need to work very hard to keep the Pakistani economy from imploding. With the cost of living having already risen to an unbearable level for most citizens, the government can no longer consider their daily challenges 'non-issues' in its larger game plan. Sustained adversity in economic conditions may trigger wider social unrest, which in turn will make economic management an even more difficult task than it already is. Before the country enters that vicious cycle, the decision-makers should act. This is no longer a political problem but an existential one.

A sorry incident



Muna Khan

What purpose do rape scenes serve on screen? Are they necessary to plot points, when most of the studies show their harmful impact and how, as Laura Hudson wrote in Wired in 2015, they feed "into real-life misconceptions about sexual assault that are often used to deprive rape survivors of legitimacy or justice"?

I thought of this while reading the reactions on social media on Monday about a new drama, Hadsa (incident), which is/isn't based on the gang rape of a woman in September 2020.

I asked my editor if I could write about why dramas need to show sexual violence against women and what impact fictionalised stories of real incidents have on societal attitudes, but then this controversy took a new turn and Hadsa was banned.

Before writing this piece, I watched a few episodes before weighing in. Hadiqa Kiani plays a progressive, strong-willed, fierce female role I rarely see on TV. She's an unapologetic feminist. She is sexually assaulted on a motorway, and I understand how upsetting that must be to the survivor of rape, who reached out to a journalist to share her anguish. There is no responsible way to show rape. The producers and Kiani have denied their drama is about the motorway case, but many folks are not buying it.

This provided an opportunity for debate on a host of issues regarding the portrayal of sexual violence and its survivors, and how much

agency a survivor has to their stories being made public. Should audiences be warned about content? Should such content be aired at a particular time? Many Western crime shows on TV are often based on real life, and come with warnings about the nature of content, and issue an "all persons fictitious" disclaimer.

The American show Law and Order SVU has fictionalised famous cases, from Dominique Strauss-Kahn to Bill Cosby, Michael Jackson to the 2015 case of a Stanford student assaulting a girl when she was unconscious. I appreciated the decision by the producers of Delhi Crime not to show the sexual violence committed on 'Nirbhaya', the name given to the woman gang-raped in 2012. The true crime genre in audio and documentary is hugely popular.

None of this prepares anyone for seeing a sliver of a resemblance of themselves on screen.

Rape should never feel like entertainment on screen. We must condemn shows where the use of sexual violence is exploitative and gratuitous. The entertainment industry has profited from the pain of survivors — all for the sake of ratings or public awareness, when it's just regurgitating terrible tropes and stereotypes, like whether a woman's choice of clothing provoked her rape.

However, as such story-lines are, a ban is not a response. This enforces a regulator's control on people's choices. To shield folks from pain and trauma, many progressive voices have landed in the same camp as the right wing, which routinely call for bans on content that does not adhere to their moral code. To those who lauded this decision, know it is a temporary win. The same tools will soon be applied

to other storylines that supposedly harm Pakistan's image in the world.

Also, rapists (and their protectors) as well as censors do the most harm to the country's image.

If and when rape survivors speak up, they are punished for doing so. The legal system is stacked against them, they are portrayed as victims and powerless. "If you survive, you have to prove it was that bad; or else, they think you are," Roxane Gay wrote in her book Not That Bad.

I know from my time in the newsroom how hard it is to get staff to report on the sexual violence man-ner, minus words attached to honour and minus judgement. It is frustrating to get them to just use the word 'rape', especially when we have adapted so many English words into our reporting. There is much work to be done. Perhaps the drama industry needs to own up to its failings. They can read the massive amount of literature on how fictionalised rape scenes impact survivors and audiences. One in three college men in an American 2015 study, for example, said they would rape women if they knew they would not face consequences. Here, not everyone is willing to agree on the definition of rape.

I think rape can be used to make a big point about Pakistani society, but I think we should close the lid on rape as a cinematic subject. This should not be confused with me calling for a ban. Bans serve no purpose. Just like rape scenes serve no purpose. What does serve purpose is complaints, critiques, pressure groups, calls for, and conversations with, filmmakers, artists, educators, journalists to do better. Even the feminist mother in Hadsa could have done better — but I'll never know whether she did. — Courtesy Dawn

Expanding BRICS



Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry

BRICS, which seeks to promote cooperation amongst Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, is expanding its ambit. The recently held summit in Johannesburg (Aug 22-24) invited Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE to join BRICS. Three questions are dominating the discourse on this development: will an expanded BRICS enable the Global South to counter-balance the Western-dominated world of politics, trade and finance? How will India reconcile its presence in BRICS with its strategic partnership with the US? And, what does BRICS Plus mean for Pakistan?

Geopolitics: There is no denying that the rise of China, India and other Asian economies has brightened prospects for the Global South to challenge Western dominance in the prevailing world order. Since the 1960s, the developing world has aspired to a new international economic order. G77 and the Non-Aligned Movement were large, unwieldy groups, unable to accomplish much for the Global South. An expanded BRICS, which represents a sizable percentage of the world's population and economic growth, seems better poised to represent the interests of the Global South.

However, it would be naive to expect a diverse group like BRICS Plus to be anti-West or even a serious challenge to the latter's dominance. For instance, de-dollarisation may be an aspiration of some BRICS countries, but the actual shift towards

other currencies would require more time and effort. Nearly \$5 trillion is held in overseas central banks, including almost \$1tr in the Bank of China. Likewise, global supply chains remain critical for the economic health of all countries. The leading lights of the expanded BRICS are also members of G20, which will be meeting in a summit shortly under India's presidency. For their part, Western countries are also inclined towards de-risking their economies rather than decoupling from China.

India: Despite its differences with China, India has chosen to play along with BRICS because it coincides with its long-cherished desire to assume the leadership of the Global South. When Chandrayan 3 landed on the moon, Prime Minister Narendra Modi attributed this success to the Global South. India is, however, in a bind. Over the past two decades, it has deepened its partnership with the US and built high stakes in the US-led Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Quad. On the other hand, it often takes positions unfavourable to the West, such as in the Russia-Ukraine war. So far, India has played a balancing act, citing strategic autonomy; but tough choices may lie ahead.

Pakistan: The people of Pakistan are disappointed their country did not receive an invitation to the Johannesburg Summit and was not included in BRICS Plus. The Foreign Office (FO) spokesperson responded to their queries on Aug 25, stating that "Pakistan will examine the latest developments and make a determination about its future engagement with the group". She added: "Pakistan is an ardent supporter of multilateralism..." If that be the case, it would make sense for Pakistan to be a member of the expanded BRICS, which is a rising multilateral organisation within the Global South.

Last year too, Pakistan's absence was noted at the high-level development dialogue on the eve of the BRICS summit hosted by China. Two dozen countries attended. Pakistan's participation was blocked by BRICS member India. The FO at that time had expressed the hope that future engagement of the organisation would be based on the principle of "inclusivity". However, this year, while over 30 other countries were invited to attend the summit, mostly from the Global South, Pakistan was not. Never-the-less, Pakistan was invited to a seminar ahead of the summit, where Senator Mushahid Hussain represented its desire to be a part of BRICS Plus.

India's hostility to Pakistan is painful but understandable. India's leadership has often used Pakistan to fetch votes in Hindu-majority areas by whipping up a threat perception around cross-border terrorism. It would be safe to conclude that even if Pakistan had applied for BRICS membership, India would have opposed it.

Another factor that undermines the prospects of Pakistan joining BRICS is its own dire economic situation, coupled with political instability, violent extremism and weak law and order. The countries in the BRICS family will stand up to Indian objections when they determine that Pakistan has something tangible to bring to the table. There is no doubt that Pakistan is situated at the centre of the expanded BRICS' economic geography. Pakistan can, for instance, become a genuine hub connecting South Asia with Western and Central Asia. However, for that to happen, Pakistan must first pull up its own economy and consider opening its door to east-west connectivity, which would complement north-south connectivity well. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Govt taking steps to boost foreign investment in tourism industry: Wasi



SIALKOT: President Chamber of Commerce Abdul Ghafoor Malik addressing to a special ceremony in connection with Pakistan Defence Day organized by CSDO a social wing of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) held at SCCI Auditorium.

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah Sunday said that his government was taking significant steps to enhance foreign investment for the tourism industry and boost investors' confidence to explore the tourism potential of Pakistan which will promote the soft image of the country at the international level.

Talking to a private news channel, he said that efforts are being made to promote and showcase Pakistan's rich tourism heritage at all international forums with the active participation of

public-private stakeholders.

He said that the foundation stone of the first theme park in Skardu will be laid soon.

The Minister Tourism said that all possible measures will be taken to provide the best ever facilities to tourists, adding that the tourism sector will actively promote to strengthen the national economy and lead the country to progress and prosperity.

Minister said the growth of the travel industry must also benefit local communities and create an environment

while enhancing the tourist ecosystem.

Replying to a question, he said Pakistan has great potential to attract a huge number of foreign tourists and expatriate Pakistanis to explore and witness the country's culture, ecotourism and religious tourism.

INP add: Minister of State for Tourism Wasi Shah has stated that government is taking significant steps to enhance foreign investment for the tourism industry.

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Ambassador Haque says: CIFTIS to support Pakistan in increasing services export

BEIJING (APP): The ongoing China International Fair for Trade in Service (CIFTIS) in Beijing will support Pakistan in increasing services exports, especially in Informational Technology (IT), e-commerce, finance and logistics, said Pakistan Ambassador to China Moin ul Haque.

The exhibition will also help promote regional connectivity with the presence of NLC and PIA in the exhibition, he told APP after inaugurating the 'Pakistan Pavilion' at the CIFTIS. Commercial Counselor, Ghulam Qadir, Science and Technology, Counselor Khan Muhammad, and representative of Pakistani companies were also present.

Some prominent Pakistani enterprises including Technology Zone Authority (STZA), Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), NETSOL, ISBEL, National Bank of Pakistan (NBP), National Logistic Corporation (NLC), Fb Enterprises, and others have set up their booths at Pakistan Pavilion to attract international investors during the event.

Ambassador Haque emphasized that the Paki-

stan Pavilion provides a platform for Pakistani businesses to showcase their capabilities and explore new avenues for trade and investment.

"This initiative reflects Pakistan's commitment to strengthening economic ties with China and other countries, and further positioning the country as a hub for service-oriented enterprises in the region," he added. He said, "China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) a flagship project of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has entered its second phase." "We are now focusing on cooperation with China in agriculture, IT, logistics, services, tourism and education," he added.

"Pakistan has signed several protocols which have opened up the multi-billion Chinese market for Pakistani products including boiled meat, dairy, cherry and chilly etc."

Terminating the signing of protocols a game changer, he said that this would not only benefit Pakistan traders and companies but also provide ample opportunities to enhance their exports to Chinese markets.

CM orders preparation of package for farmers

LAHORE (APP): On the direction of Caretaker Chief Minister Punjab Mohsin Naqvi, a special package would be prepared to provide facilities to farmers of the province.

In this regard, the CM sought comprehensive recommendations for preparation of the special package. Chairman Planning & Development Board, secretaries Agriculture, Livestock, Irrigation, Finance and a team comprising officials of Punjab Bank would prepare recommendations for the package.

Over 3m bales of cotton arrival recorded at ginneries

MULTAN (APP): Seed Cotton (Phutti) equivalent to over three million (30,41,104) bales have reached ginning factories across Pakistan till Aug 31, 2023. According to a fortnightly report of Pakistan Cotton Ginners Association (PCGA) issued to media on Sunday, Punjab ginning factories recorded a cotton arrival figure of 10,68,796 bales while arrivals to ginneries in Sindh.

Development of SAARC countries linked with durable peace: Iftikhar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Former President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) Iftikhar Ali Malik has said that economic growth, prosperity, and development for all countries of South Asia is linked with durable peace in region.

While chairing a virtual conference titled "The role of Afghanistan for durable peace in the region" here on Sunday, he said, "South Asia has long been plagued by instability and conflicts that have hindered the region's progress and potential."

Iftikhar Ali Malik said,

"One of the major concerns contributing to this instability has been the presence of terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, which have posed a severe threat not only to Afghanistan but to neighboring countries, including Pakistan." "Counter-terrorism cooperation and collaboration closely with regional and international stakeholders, especially Pakistan, to eliminate terrorist sanctuaries on Afghan soil, can help eradicate the breeding grounds for extremist elements and bring about much-needed stability."

Businessmen vow to continue protests till power tariff hike withdrawal

KARACHI (INP): The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry's Businessmen Panel (BMP) has pledged to carry on protests until government withdraws unprecedented hike in power bills and rising fuel cost.

The FPCCI's Businessmen Panel (BMP) Chairman Mian Anjum Nisar stated that the inflated power bills triggered country-wide protests, demanding that the government to abolish imposed taxes on electricity, saying that increase in electricity

bills is unbearable and demanded relief from the government.

In July, the then federal cabinet gave its go-ahead to a massive increase in the base tariff of electricity by up to Rs7.50 per unit against the national average tariff determination of Rs4.96 by the power regulator National Electric Power Regulatory Authority. The regulator had hiked the tariff to increase revenue collection for the loss-making power distribution companies during the current fiscal year. According

to a Nepa statement, the revised national average tariff for the 2023-24 fiscal year has been determined at Rs29.78 per unit kWh, which is Rs4.96 per unit higher than the previously determined national average tariff of Rs24.82.

While the regulator cited the rupee's devaluation, high inflation and interest rates, the addition of new capacities and overall low sales growth as reasons behind the increase, it was actually hiked to meet one of the conditions set by the In-

ternational Monetary Fund of introducing structural reforms in the energy sector. He said that the applicable tariff would be much higher after including surcharges, taxes, duties and levies, besides monthly and quarterly adjustments.

Anjum Nisar said that IPPs were earning huge profits in dollars, but the businesses were badly suffering due to exorbitant power tariffs and the rising cost of doing business. He said that PPAs in Pakistan had made energy cost high-

er in the region and stressed that to save the industry, the government should renegotiate PPAs with IPPs in the best national interest.

He said that due to the significant depreciation of rupee, the import of industrial raw materials had become very expensive which was pushing up the production cost.

He stressed that the government should take urgent measures to stabilize the value of rupee in order to save the industry from further troubles.



RAWALPINDI: A view of deserted pirwadhai bus stand in the city, As Transport fares soared for the second time in less than a month in the Rawalpindi district on Friday as prices of petrol and diesel cruised past the psychologically significant Rs300 mark.

Naqvi says: Need of time to establish latest graveyards with increase in population

CM visits 'Shehr-e-Khamoshan', reviews facilities

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Caretaker Chief Minister Mohsin Naqvi visited Shehr-e-Khamoshan [graveyard] being built at Sundar Road Raiwind, here on Sunday.

He reviewed facilities being provided for burial at Shehr-e-Khamoshan and inspected various sections of the project including waiting area, ablation place, funeral place and ambulance.

that burial facilities in Shehr-e-Khamoshan had been provided in an organised manner, adding that it would be built in other cities as well on the pattern of Sundar Road Raiwind. He underscored that it was need of the time to establish the latest graveyards with increase in population, adding that all requirements with regard to the latest graveyard had been fulfilled at Shehr-e-

Khamoshan. It was informed during the briefing that a model graveyard comprising 127 kanals of land had been built at the Sundar Road Raiwind.

A four wall, funeral place ablation place along with an ambulance had been provided in the model graveyard. A capacity of more than 12 thousand graves had been kept in the model graveyard.

Thousands of devotees to attend annual Urs of Data Ganj Bakhsh

LAHORE (INP): The three-day 980th Urs of Hazrat Ali Hajveri, popularly known as Data Ganj Bakhsh, will begin on September 5 at his shrine in Lahore. Thousands of devotees from across Pakistan and abroad are expected to attend the annual festivities.

The Urs will start with a traditional 'chaddar' laying ceremony at the shrine.

GCWUF to start tree plantation drive today

FAISALABAD (APP): The Government College Women University Faisalabad (GCWUF) would kick off tree plantation drive here on Monday, Sept 4, 2023.

A spokesperson for the university said here on Sunday that the Department of Public Administration GCWUF would organise a 'Plantation Activity' to contribute towards greener and more sustainable future for the nation.



ABBOTTABAD: A man checking weapons on a police stall, during exhibition in the city.

Minister underscores government's commitment to promote tourism in region

NATHIAGALI (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa minister for Information, Tourism, and Culture, Barrister Feroz Jamal Shah Kakakhel on Sunday emphasized that the establishment of peace and security in the province remains the top priority of the government.

To combat the menace of terrorism effectively, the Counter-Terrorism Force (CTD) has been equipped and strengthened.

He expressed these views while addressing a five-day educational tour orga-

nized for visually impaired students at the scenic tourist spot of Nathiagali.

The minister expressed unwavering determination to bring terrorism under control promptly. He acknowledged the unparalleled natural beauty of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and underscored the government's commitment to promoting tourism in the region.

He said that efforts are underway to curb illegal constructions and ensure the preservation of forests in the province.

Notable tourist destinations such as Nathiagali, Thandiani, Naran Kaghan, among others, are being closely monitored for the unauthorized allocation of government guest houses, hotels, plots, and lands to favoured persons, he said.

The minister assured that tourists visiting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa would be welcomed with the best possible hospitality. He urged tourists to respect local culture and traditions while enjoying their stay in the region.

Minister committed to address challenges and concerns faced by lawyers

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The Provincial Law Minister Syed Arshad Shah on Sunday paid a visit to the District Bar Association Abbottabad (DBA).

On this occasion, both the Presidents of the High Court Bar Association (HCBA) and the DBA extended their greetings to the minister and warmly welcomed him.

Syed Arshad Shah while expressing his views said that District Bar Abbottabad is his own home, as he is also a former member of this esteemed institution.

He made a commitment to address the challenges and concerns faced by lawyers and pledged to work tirelessly for further legal reforms.

Emphasizing the ne-

cessity for ongoing reforms, Minister Syed Arshad Shah lauded the Abbottabad Bar for its distinguished reputation across Pakistan. He acknowledged the steadfast dedication of the legal community in upholding the Constitution and the principles of justice.

He underlined the importance of cooperation between the legal fraternity and the responsible government of the province to enact reforms that would benefit the entire legal community.

In the reception lawyers, including representatives from Manshehra, Balakot, Haripur, Ghazi, and Havelian Bar Associations were present and demonstrated the unity and collaboration within the legal profession.



HYDERABAD: JEST and PST passed candidates are holding protest demonstration for appointment letters, at Hyderabad press club.



HYDERABAD: Activists of Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) Women Wing are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Hyderabad press club.

Droughts, flooding make women, children more vulnerable to insecure livelihoods, poverty

LAHORE (APP): Experts have highlighted a pressing concern regarding the vulnerability of women and children in Pakistan to the adverse health effects of climate change.

This heightened susceptibility primarily arises from the precarious nature of their livelihoods and their enduring struggle with income poverty. When confronted with episodes of food scarcity, drought, or flooding, women and children are disproportionately burdened by hunger and an array of vulnerabilities, as pointed out by the Climate

Change Division in 2013. The urgency of taking action in this context cannot be overstated.

The experts emphasize that addressing this critical issue necessitates extensive collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, national societies, the private sector, civil societies, NGOs, and our environment community. The enormity of the challenges posed by climate change and the exacerbated risks faced by vulnerable populations make it clear that no single organization can ef-

fectively combat these threats in isolation. It is only through collective efforts that these entities can mitigate the direst consequences of the climate crisis.

Environmental advocate Khalid Mahmood Qamar underscores the alarming global temperature rise, which has been accelerating for decades. The annual mean global temperature has surged by 0.57°C in the last century, with both maximum and minimum temperatures showing an upward trend. Qamar notes that hot days have become even hotter,

while cold days have become warmer. In Pakistan, regions such as the hyper-arid plains, arid coastal areas, and mountainous terrain have experienced a temperature increase ranging from 0.6-1.0°C between 1960 and 2007.

Drawing from a recent Asian Development Bank report, Qamar warns that Pakistan's current temperatures are projected to continue rising. By 2100, the mean temperature is anticipated to soar within the range of 3-6°C, with a particularly steep rise expected after 2050. This

projection surpasses the global average, and certain regions within Pakistan will witness even more substantial temperature increases.

Muhammad Irfan, the dedicated manager for a resilient and greener future at WWF, emphasizes the likely impact of climate change on agricultural yields in Pakistan. Factors such as droughts, land availability, and shifting crop seasons are poised to render farmers, particularly women and children, increasingly vulnerable to the health and livelihood repercussions of climate change.

International News

North Korea simulates nuclear missile attack in warning to US

Monitoring Desk
SEOUL: North Korea announced Sunday that it conducted simulated nuclear missile attacks as a warning to the United States, emphasizing the perceived "nuclear war danger."

The country launched a series of cruise missiles, some of which were equipped with imitation nuclear warheads. The state media outlet, KCNA, described this exercise as a simulation of a "tactical nuclear attack" aimed at alerting the US to the potential consequences of their actions.

According to KCNA, these exercises took place

at dawn on Saturday and involved "two long-range strategic cruise missiles with mock nuclear warheads." The simulated nuclear attack was a response to joint military exercises conducted by the United States and South Korea earlier in the week, as reported by KCNA.

The Central Military Commission of the Workers' Party of Korea, as cited by KCNA, stressed the importance of these exercises through a "written drill order." The missile sub-unit involved in the exercise executed the mission successfully, with missiles following a specific flight pattern and warheads detonating at

a predetermined altitude. "The missile sub-unit successfully carried out its nuclear strike mission by making sure that missiles flown along the pattern '8' flight track simulating the distance of 1,500 kilometres (about 1 mile) for 7.672 to 7.681 seconds respectively and warheads detonated at a preset altitude of 150 meters above the target island," the state-run media reported.

This latest missile exercise is part of a series conducted by North Korea this year. It marks the country's 18th missile test in 2023, a significant increase compared to four tests in 2020 and eight in 2021.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspects the Pukjung Machine Complex and a major munitions factory in an undisclosed location in North Korea in this picture released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Armenian PM says depending solely on Russia for security was 'strategic mistake'

Monitoring Desk
LONDON: Armenia's prime minister has said his country's policy of solely relying on Russia to guarantee its security was a strategic mistake because Moscow has been unable to deliver and is in the process of winding down its role in the wider region.

In an interview with Italian newspaper La Repubblica published on Sunday, Nikol Pashinyan accused Russia of failing to ensure Armenia's security in the face of what he said was aggression from neighbouring Azerbaijan over the breakaway Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Pashinyan suggested that Moscow, which has a defence pact with Armenia and a military base there, did not regard his country as sufficiently pro-Russian and said he believed Russia was in the process of leaving the wider South Caucasus region.

Yerevan was therefore trying to diversify its security arrangements, he said, an apparent reference to its ties with the European Union and the United States and its attempts to forge closer ties with other countries in the region. "Armenia's security architecture was 99.999% linked to Russia, including when it came to the procurement of arms and ammunition," Pashinyan told La Repubblica.

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Iran adds Russian combat jets to air force

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran's air force has received a batch of advanced Russian combat trainer jets to "improve the training and combat capability of the air force", local media reported on Saturday.

"A number of Yak-130 training aircraft entered the country and joined the Shahid Babaei Air Base in Isfahan" in central Iran, according to Tasnim news agency.

The agency, quoting the army's public relations department, said the arrival of the Yakovlev Yak-130 came as part of the Islamic Republic's "arms contracts with the Russian Federation".

Russia and Iran are both under international sanctions that restrict

trade, but have over the past year forged strong ties in various sectors including military cooperation.

In March, Iran announced that a deal had been reached to buy Sukhoi Su-35 fighter jets from Russia. Ukraine and many of its Western allies have accused Tehran of supplying Moscow with weapons for use in its war against Kyiv. Iran has consistently denied the allegations.

In May, the United States said Iran and Russia are "expanding their unprecedented defence partnership." US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said at the time that Iran had delivered more than 400 drones to Russia since August last year.



Pope Francis attends the Holy Mass in the Steppe Arena, during his Apostolic Journey in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

Erdogan's Russia visit vital for grain deal, Turkish leader's chief aide says

Monitoring Desk
ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will focus on the Black Sea grain deal during their meeting on Monday, as Turkey seeks to bring Moscow back to the deal, Erdogan's chief foreign policy advisor said.

"We play a leading role here. We see strong support from all around the world for the realisation of the grain corridor," Erdogan's chief foreign policy and security advisor Akif Cagatay Kilic told an interview on A Haber television channel.

"The current status (of the grain deal) will be discussed at the summit on Monday. We are cautious, but we hope to achieve success because this is a situation that affects the entire world," Kilic said. Russian drones hit Danube River port infrastructure that is critical to Ukraine's grain exports, injuring at least two people in the attack on southern parts of the Odessa region on Sunday, Ukrainian officials said. The Danube has become Ukraine's main route for exporting grain since July, when Russia quit a U.N. and Turkey-brokered deal that had given safe passage to Kyiv's exports of grains.



Sara Morris and her children stand outside their flood-ravaged mobile home in Berlin.

Ukraine troops are 'moving forward', Zelenskiy says in rebuff to critics

Monitoring Desk
KYIV: President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said on Saturday that Kyiv's troops were "moving forward" in their counteroffensive against Russian forces, rebuffing Western officials who say that Ukraine is gaining ground too slowly.

The much-vaunted counteroffensive, which is nearing the three-month mark, has retaken more than a dozen villages but no major settlements with soldiers hampered by vast Russian minefields and defensive lines. This week, unnamed

US officials vented frustration at the slow progress of the operation and even faulted Ukrainian strategy, according to Western reports that drew Kyiv's ire. "Ukrainian forces are moving forward. Despite everything, and that is the most important thing. We are on the move," Zelenskiy wrote on the Telegram messaging app. Some fear the West's support could begin to falter as colder and wetter weather slows progress on the battlefield later in the year.

Iran sentences two female journalists for 'conspiracy' and 'collusion'

Monitoring Desk
TEHRAN: Iran has sentenced two female journalists, Negin Bagheri and Elnaz Mohammadi, to a three-year partly suspended prison term for alleged "conspiracy" and "collusion."

As reported by local media on Sunday, the journalists will serve a portion of their sentences, equating to approximately one-fortieth of the term, which amounts to less than a month in prison. The remaining part of the sentence is suspended for five years, during which they are mandated to undergo "professional ethics training" and are prohibited from leaving the country. Their lawyer, Amir Raisian, provided these details to the reformist Ham Mihan daily newspaper, where Elnaz Mohammadi is employed. However, the specific allegations against these journalists were not detailed in the report, leaving many questions unanswered about the nature of their supposed "conspiracy" and "collusion."

Calls for accountability in Jaranwala incident

Interfaith Harmony Conference promotes unity, tolerance among religions

ISLAMABAD (APP): Religious leaders and scholars from diverse religious backgrounds converged at the Interfaith Harmony Conference recently held at the Pakistan National Council of the Arts in the federal capital.

The conference, organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, served as a platform for prominent figures to advocate for unity, peace, and tolerance among different religious communities.

Minister of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, Aneeq Ahmed, opened the conference with a powerful message of unity. He strongly condemned any distortion of faith and emphasized the need for all religions to come together. He shed light on the recent tragic incident in Jaranwala, expressing his belief that such incidents should never have occurred.

Minister Aneeq also pointed out that neighbouring India had witnessed even worse atrocities against various communities, highlighting that the

lives lost among Christian brethren in India were not just Christians but "our brothers."

He extended his message of inclusivity by highlighting the divine nature of all scriptures, including the Torah, Psalms, Bible, and the Holy Quran, affirming that these are all divine revelations, with the Quran being the final one.

Pakistan Ulama Council Chairman Hafiz Muhammad Tahir Mahmood Ashrafi, who also serves as the President of the International Interfaith Harmony Council, shared valuable insights on the importance of religious cohesion. He emphasized that the teachings of Islam inherently advocate for peaceful coexistence among all communities.

Ashrafi made it clear that the individuals allegedly involved in the Jaranwala incident were not representatives of any religion but rather of extremism and terrorism.

Expressing deep regret over the Jaranwala incident, Ashrafi extended heartfelt apologies to the Christian

community. He personally met with Christian leaders to seek forgiveness, reaffirming the commitment to mutual respect and understanding.

However, he also voiced concerns about Pakistan's judicial system acknowledging that if the perpetrators of the Joseph Colony incident had been properly prosecuted, a shameful recurrence in Jaranwala could have been averted. He pointed out several instances of blasphemy and desecration cases awaiting resolution in trial courts, which had remained undecided for years. Ashrafi mentioned that numerous individuals had been apprehended in connection with the Jaranwala incident and expressed optimism that they would expeditiously receive fair legal treatment in accordance with the country's laws.

Mufti Muneeb ur Rehman emphasized the need to discard the term "minorities" and asserted that "regardless of our religious affiliations, we all share a common identity as Pakistanis."



BHITSHAH: Sindh Governor Kamran Khan Tessori laying wreath on the grave of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai on the occasion of 280th urs celebrations.

Interim govt comes up with 'power relief plan'

ISLAMABAD (INP): The interim government devised a strategy to provide relief to power consumers on exorbitant electricity bills, with a reduction of Rs3,000 for users consuming 300 units.

Reports suggest that bills for power consumers who are consuming 300 units in September will be decreased by the aforementioned amount.

The government is presently awaiting permission from the IMF before enforcing this policy. The government, a couple of days back, shared a plan with the Interna-

tional Monetary Fund (IMF) to provide relief to the people in connection of the electricity bills, which triggered protests across the country, with an assurance that none of the targets agreed upon by the previous government would be compromised.

Caretaker Minister for Finance Dr Shamshad Akhtar said a team comprising Pakistani authorities met the IMF officials.

Though she was not part of the team in talks with the global lender, she reiterated Pakistan's commitments to follow the IMF programme.

PML-N hints at 'protesting with PTI' if elections delayed

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) leader Ata Tarar has hinted at protesting along with the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) chief if elections were delayed.

Talking to a private television channel, former SAPM and senior PML-N leader Ata Tarar hinted at protesting with Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf if the elections are postponed in Pakistan.

Robber involved in looting Rs8mln from bank held

KARACHI (INP): The Rangers and police during joint operation in Malir arrested a robber involved in bank robbery of eight million rupees.

The Sindh Rangers and police launched joint operation against the culprits who looted a private bank in Metroville Site Karachi on August 21 this year.

During operation, one robber involved in the dacoity was arrested. The gang had also killed a citizen upon resistance during a robbery on July 23.

CTD officials involved in robbery incidents in Karachi

KARACHI (Online): Officials of Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) were also involved in robbery incidents in Karachi.

According to media reports, the involvement of CTD personnel in robbery incidents in Karachi has been revealed. In this regard, three officials have been arrested and a case has been registered against them.

DIG Counter-Terrorism Department Zulfikar Lark said that the three officials claimed Rs 3 crore from a businessman in a fake raid and claimed terror financing and money laundering.

The DIG further said that the affected businessman works as a goldsmith who was going from Karachi to Multan.

Haleem Adil Sheikh, brothers booked in fraud case

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Haleem Adil Sheikh and his three brothers have been booked in a fraud case.

A fraud case was lodged against the PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh and his three brothers at the Memon Goth police station over a citizen's complaint.

The complainant claimed that Haleem's brother Aleem had promised to give the ownership of a plot in a housing society after receiving Rs60 million on November 26, 2019.

He added that he then found out that the original documents of the land did not exist. The citizen alleged that he had been threatened at gunpoint in a farmhouse for raising his voice over the financial fraud.

Hot, humid weather likely to persist in city

KARACHI (APP): Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) Sunday predicted hot and humid weather for most parts of the Sindh province during the next 24 hours.

The minimum and maximum temperatures recorded in °C: Karachi 32-34, Hyderabad 35-37, Sukkur 39-41, Thatta 32-34, Mohenjodaro 39-41, Dadu 40-42, Mithi 36-38 and in Nawabshah 39-41.

Mainly, hot and humid weather is likely to prevail in the province.

3-day celebration of 280th Urs of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai concluded

BHITSHAH (APP): Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori has said that Sindh was the land of saints and sufis and Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai was also among them who always taught lesson of love, peace, sincerity and devotion. He expressed these views while talking to media after laying chaadar on the shrine of Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai in the concluding ceremony of 280th Urs of Gear Saint.

Governor said that although we belong to the land of saints but are facing several crises because we have not adopted and spread the message of Sufi and saints.

He said that it was moment of immense pleasure for him that around 500000 devotees were visiting Urs celebration daily basis.

Governor said that this Urs was being celebrated after 4 years which was hampered due to Covid restrictions and people also earn their livelihood as usual. In reply to a question about meeting with PML(N) leader Muhammad Nawaz Sharif,

the Governor said that it was a part of political wisdom as we want to maintain our political relationship with key political parties.

He said that various problems related to the economy, particularly the energy crisis facing Sindh were discussed in the meeting. Tessori said that such a crisis could not be resolved by a single political party but could be tackled collectively. Governor further said that Sindh was badly affected in last year's flood catastrophe and people of Sindh were still facing its aftermath. He urged all political parties to shun their differences to resolve the problems of the masses and for this purpose he could also consult with political leaders including Muhammad Nawaz Sharif and Asif Ali Zardari if needed.

Governor said that prosperity and stability of Pakistan should be our top priority and we have to support the Election Commission so that fair, free and transparent elections can be conducted.



DHAKA: Pakistani High Commissioner, Mr. Imran Ahmed Siddiqui paying a farewell call on the President of Bangladesh Mohammed Shahabuddin.

Preparations underway to launch major operation: Haris Nawaz

THATTA (INP): Caretaker Home Minister Haris Nawaz on Sunday said preparations being made for major operations in Karachi and interior of Sindh, ARY News reported.

Talking to media at Makli Bypass here, Haris Nawaz said that the operation will be launched as new officers will come today or the next day.

Home minister said that Sindh the peace will return to Sindh after posting of good officers. Sindh will turn into a cradle of peace, he said.

"Preparations have been

completed for an operation in Ghotki, Kashmore, Jacobabad and Kandhkot," Haris Nawaz said.

"Operation will be conducted at all places in Katcha and Pacca areas," caretaker home minister of Sindh said.

"We are not going to initiate political victimization against anyone," he said.

"Action being taken against those having NAB or other cases against them," he said.

"We will hold free, fair and transparent election and will issue instructions as and when the election date given," he added.



HYDERABAD: Chairperson Justjuo Foundation Sadaf Raza, Famous Folk Artist Sanam Marvi, Dr Irfana, Benish Qadri and others sits on stage during a ceremony titled "Social Meet up Session" organized by Justjuo Foundation and Rotary Club, at a local hotel.

Justjuo foundation organize social meet up on women empowerment

HYDERABAD (APP): The Chairperson of Justjuo Foundation Sadaf Raza Waraich has said that cancer was a fatal disease, however, it could be controlled with early treatment and courage.

She expressed these views in her welcome speech during a social meet-up held here in a local hotel regarding empowering women in various fields.

Sharing her battle with deadly disease Sadaf Raza said that before diagnosing cancer with her she as a philanthropist used to help and assist cancer patients suffering in various forms and take them to the Doctors and hospitals for treatment. Unfortunately later she also detected cancer with her. But with the support of My Spouse and the prayers of relatives and friends, I recovered from the disease after fighting it for a long time.

The social meet-up consisted of four topics.

The first session discussed business activities in which participants HCCI President Adeel Siddiqui, Benish Qadri, and Sadaf Raza expressed their views

and shared their proposals regarding empowering women in the business sector.

In the second session issues of women's mental health were highlighted by Dr Irfana Shah and Marvi Awan. They communicated their suggestion for protecting the mental health of women, particularly business women so that they could run their business activities with peace of mind.

The third session was focused on Information Technology (IT) in which experts including Arifa Bhutto, Shahid Samon, and Farhat, while expressing their views said, "IT is an important sector nowadays, however, women were not being utilized to prove their mettle in this modern sector."

They said that the Justjuo Foundation was planning to provide a better platform to women who desire to join the IT sector.

The last session consisted of a Musical performance in which Chief guest eminent Singer Sanam Marvi shed light on various aspects of her life and career and sang two songs.



KARACHI: Caretaker Federal Minister for Education and Professional Training Madad Ali Sindhi during a meeting with the Senior Journalists at Karachi Press Club (KPC).

US official: Pak needs energy sector reforms to get rid of debt

WASHINGTON (Online): Senior US official Elizabeth Horst has said that Pakistan needs to reform the energy sector and choose renewable energy sources.

The reforms proposed by the IMF will help Pakistan get out of the debt and external financing trap, she added.

According to media reports, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Horst, who heads the Bureau of South and Central Affairs at the US State Department, stressed the need to implement reforms to meet future challenges.

Elizabeth Horst said that this is a difficult economic situation, this is the situation in Pakistan, in America and in the whole world.

How can America help Pakistan to avoid economic disaster? We are working every day to help Pakistan advance economic

reforms that will make it more competitive and better prepared to meet future challenges.

The US official highlighted recent US efforts to help ease the pressure of the economic downturn and aid to victims of last year's devastating floods, including emergency shelter, flood relief and food aid which is more than \$21 million.

She said that at the same time we are building the future to help Pakistan move towards building resilience against natural disasters after recovery from disasters.

Through the Pak-US Green Alliance, we are making strategic investments in the energy, water and agriculture sectors, which will strengthen climate resilience, bring innovation in the energy sector and promote inclusive economic growth, she added.

Woman held for throwing down newborn from fifth floor

KARACHI (INP): The police arrested a woman who killed her newborn child by throwing down from fifth floor in Liaqatabad No. 4.

According to details, the mentally retarded woman threw down her newborn daughter from fifth floor of the building.

Police said that the woman facing mental health issues was divorced by husband and was currently residing at house of her brother where she gave birth to a girl.

Online rider sets his motorbike on fire outside KPC

KARACHI (INP): An enraged citizen set his motorbike on fire outside the Karachi Press Club over police's behaviour. The citizen is said to be an online bike rider.

According to details, Karachi's citizen set fire to his motorcycle while protesting against the Frere police. The citizen, in his statement, accused the police of torturing him on the spot by declaring him 'drunk'. The protesting man alleged that police cops snatched his money, bike papers and mobile phone. Meanwhile, police officials said the citizen had a quarrel with someone near Cantt Station shortly before, calling the police helpline? The police said they are investigating the matter.

Man from Larkana marries to Filipina girl on video call

LARKANA (Online): Facebook friendship turned into marriage, a young resident of Larkana married a Filipina girl over video call.

Oshaq Shaikh, a resident of Ghazi Abbas Colony, got married to a Filipina girl Mikona over video call.

In the ceremony, a Filipino girl, Mikona, was married through a video call.

After the marriage, the family, friends and loved ones congratulated Oshaq Shaikh and garlanded him.

On this occasion, the relatives and women who were taking selfies was to be seen. Fiancé Oshaq Shaikh said that a year ago I contacted Mikona on Facebook which turned into friendship and love.

Legal requirements will be completed after marriage and soon he will visit Philippine to meet his wife Mikona soon.

PPP asks ECP to unfreeze development schemes' funds

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan People's Party (PPP) has asked the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) to unfreeze the funds for development schemes.

PPP senior leader Senator Taj Haider wrote a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and demanded to take back its decision to ban the disbursement of funds for the development schemes ahead of elections.

The political party criticised the freezing of funds for the development schemes aiming to provide relief and welfare to the masses.

"Orders of the Elec-

tion Commission of Pakistan to freeze Development Funds in the Province of Sindh, including those allocated in the provincial budget for providing flood resistant houses to families devastated in last year's floods and for solar panels to provide relief to the poorest of the families from hours of load-shedding and exorbitant electricity bills are shocking to say the least," the letter states.

It stated that the ECP took the surprise decision to freeze the funds for a solar panel scheme amid worst loadshedding and inflated electricity bills issues.



KARACHI: Relatives of Missing persons hold a protest in favor of their demands outside Sindh Assembly, in Provincial Capital.

Maryam praises US role in providing critical supplies amid floods, corona era

LAHORE (INP): Pakistan Muslim League chief organizer and vice president Maryam Nawaz Sharif met with the US Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Bloom Sunday.

During the meeting, both sides discussed importance of historical and bilateral relations between both countries.

During the meeting, both sides stressed for promoting mutual cooperation including trade, economy, security, peace and regional stability was also emphasized.

Maryam Nawaz Sharif also appreciated the efforts made by the American government during the most difficult conditions of COVID-19 pandemic and floods.

Earlier, Pakistan, USAID Deputy Administrator Isobel Coleman announced \$16.4 million in additional development and humanitarian assistance to support the resilience of communities in Pakistan that experienced 2022's historically severe floods, which impacted an estimated 33 million

people and had a devastating impact on infrastructure, crops, livelihoods, and livestock throughout the country.

This new funding will reach over 20 million flood-affected individuals to assist in their recovery, risk reduction, and resilience.

The assistance will address worsening food insecurity and malnutrition and help curb the spread of disease.

In addition, this funding will support humanitarian partners to provide nutritious food to mothers and their children, help families rebuild local infrastructure to protect them from future disasters, and increase protection services to prevent gender-based violence and support survivors.

Following severe monsoon rains and resultant floods in Pakistan during mid-2022, USAID deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team to lead the U.S. humanitarian response and rapidly provide aid to affected communities.



LARKANA: Activists of Jeay Sindh Mahaz (JSM) are holding protest demonstration against massive unemployment, increasing price of daily use products, inflation price hiking and the highly inflated electricity bills, at Jinnah Bagh in Larkana.