

Independent

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ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar chairs a meeting of the Apex Committee on National Action Plan.

Gave deadline to illegal foreigners Leave Pakistan by Oct 31st

Apex Committee vows to address all security threats in befitting manner

Interior minister warns deportations will begin after deadline; UNHCR says refugee return should be "voluntary and without any pressure"

ISLAMABAD (Online): Apex Committee made decisions to deal with possible challenges regarding security situation and ensure implementation of constitution and law as per expectations of the people. The Committee was chaired by Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar in Islamabad on Tuesday.

Chief of Army Staff, concerned federal ministers, provincial chief ministers and heads of all civil and military agencies were present in the meeting.

The participants made a comprehensive assessment of the country's internal security situation so that possible challenges can be dealt within a sustainable manner.

The participants of the meeting resolved that despite all difficulties writ of

the state will be ensured. Apex Committee made decisions include, withdrawal of illegal foreign nationals residing in Pakistan, the formalization of border movement procedures in which movement across the border will be permitted only on passports and visas and action against illegal immigration, crack down on trade and property of illegal foreigners.

Meanwhile, a task force has been formed under the Federal Ministry of Home Affairs to investigate fake identity cards, businesses and properties to deal with illegal identity cards and properties.

The Forum reiterated the need to further enhance and strengthen ongoing operations against growing illegal activities including drug trafficking, hoarding, food and currency smuggling, illegal remittances and power theft.

The Apex Committee highlighted that the use of force is sole jurisdiction of the state and no person or group will be allowed to use coercive force.

The Committee made it clear that there is absolutely no place for any political armed group or organization in the country and those involved in such activities will be dealt with iron hands.

It was also highlighted that Islam is a religion of peace and the state will not allow anyone to achieve political goals by interpreting the religion in their own way.

The Committee said that state will protect the rights of minorities given to them by Islam and constitution.

The forum emphasized that those who campaign for propaganda and disinformation should be dealt with strictly under cyber laws.

The Apex Committee reiterated its determination that the principles of faith, unity and discipline will be followed in true sense and tireless efforts will be continued for development of the country.

APP adds: Caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti on Tuesday gave a deadline to all illegal foreigners in Pakistan to voluntarily leave the country by October 31st or the law enforcement agencies will deport them on November 1st.

Addressing a press conference after the Apex Committee meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar at the Ministry of Interior, Bugti said that no foreigner will be allowed to enter Pakistan on fake documents or no without visa documents. He said, the apex committee meeting decided November 1st as deadline for passport and visa renewal for all foreigners living illegally in Pakistan. There is no country in the world which allows foreigners to enter on any other document than visa but unfortunately, our country is the only one where anyone can come without a passport or visa, said the minister adding that after November 1st, no person, resident of any other country, will be able to enter Pakistan without passport and visa.

SC should admit its past mistakes of endorsing martial laws: CJP

Monitoring Desk
ISLAMABAD: During the hearing of the Supreme Court Practice and Procedure Act case on Tuesday, Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Justice Qazi Faez Isa made a compelling remark, highlighting the havoc being wrought by individuals wielding unchecked power. He astutely observed that when martial law is imposed, the solemn oath taken by judges often fades into oblivion. In contrast, when parliament enacts laws, the judiciary swiftly reacts, holding lawmakers accountable to their oath.

The CJP boldly asserted that the apex court should acknowledge its past mistakes concerning its endorsement of martial laws.

Critics, particularly lawyers, have historically voiced concerns about the

top court's perceived misuse of its jurisdiction under Article 184 (3) of the Constitution of Pakistan.

A full court bench of the Supreme Court is hearing petitions challenging the SC (Practice and Procedure) Act 2023. The bench, headed by CJP Isa and comprising all 15 judges of the Supreme Court, is hearing the pleas.

The highly anticipated case is being broadcast live on state television, as cameras from PTV have been installed inside Courtroom No.1. The hearing commenced at 9:30am today.

The full court bench, led by CJP Isa, included Justice Sardar Tariq Masood, Justice Ijazul Ahsan, Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah, Justice Munib Akhtar, Justice Yahya Afridi, Justice Aminuddin Khan, Justice

Sayyed Mazhar Ali Akbar Naqvi, Justice Jamal Khan Mandokhel, Justice Muhammad Ali Mazhar, Justice Ayesha A. Malik, Justice Athar Minallah, Justice Syed Hasan Azhar Rizvi, Justice Shahid Waheed, and Justice Musarrat Hilali.

The hearing was adjourned till Monday, October 9.

At the start of today's hearing, the chief justice said the law affected the CJP and the two senior-most judges of the SC. He added that the law would also apply to future chief justices and senior judges of the apex court. Elaborating further, Justice Isa stated that he felt that he should not have been part of the bench, however, as the law affects all judges of the apex court, it was decided that a full court will hear the case.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Interior, Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti addressing a Press Conference.

PTI chief's cipher case to be heard in Adiala Jail

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Ministry of Law on Tuesday issued a notification to hold Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Chairman's trial in Adiala jail in the cipher case.

The notification adds that the law and justice division says it has 'no objection' to the trial being held in jail.

The notification was issued after special court judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain wrote a letter to the Ministry of Law, asking it to issue a notification to hold the hearing of the cipher case in the Rawalpindi prison due to security concerns. Earlier, the FIA submitted challan of the cipher case in a special court constituted under the Official Secrets Act. PTI chairman and Vice Chairman Shah Mahmood Qureshi were indicted in the challan.

The FIA pleaded to the court for trial and conviction of the Chairman PTI and former foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

The first information report (FIR) was registered on August 15 under the Official Secrets Act.

National Day of Germany observed: Pak-German relations strengthening with passage of time: Jan Achakzai

German Consul General expresses heartfelt grief over Mastung carnage, visits Trauma Center to inquire about health of injured

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Provincial Minister for Information, Jan Achakzai has stated that the relations of Pakistan with Germany are strengthening with passage of time.

However, there is a need to work for promotion of culture between the two countries.

This was stated by the caretaker Minister for Information while speaking at the ceremony organised to mark the German Unity Day observed as the national day of Germany here at the local hotel on Tuesday.

The Consul General of Germany based in Karachi, Dr Rudiger Lotz, Honorary Consul General of Germany in Quetta, and other dignitaries from different walks of the life also participated in the event.

Addressing the gathering, the German Consul General Dr Lotz welcomed the participants.

He said that it is a matter of pleasure that the Germany's national day was observed in Quetta.

He on the occasion expressed heartfelt grief and sorrow over the Mastung carnage saying that he is grieved over the tragic incident.

He also mentioned that he visited Trauma center of the civil hospital where he met the injured of Mastung blast. The German diplomat expressed his resolve to strengthen the relations of his country with Pakistan.

He said that the cultural bonds are being improved further.

Bright chances of development in Balochistan: Governor emphasizes on adopting modern means to promote trade and commerce activities

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Governor Balochistan, Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar has emphasized upon adopting modern means for promotion of trade and commerce activities.

He said that Balochistan is a beautiful place in the whole region and it is the habitat of rare animals and birds.

The dry and fresh fruits produced in the province are unique as well.

Moreover, the beautiful places situated from Hanna-Urak to Harboi and Ziarat can attract the tourists from all over the country.

This and similar other

views were expressed by the Governor while speaking to different delegations who called on him here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

The Governor said that there are bright chances of development in the province.

He said that we can ensure development by utilizing different natural and Human Resources.

The Governor also said that importance of modern skills is being increased alongside education.

Therefore, it is necessary for our youth to benefit from the modern technical skills, he maintained.

Caretaker CM approves to establish Forensic Science lab in Quetta

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki given approval of the establishment of forensic science laboratory in Quetta.

According to an official handout issued here, the Chief Minister given the approval using his constitutional powers. This laboratory would operate under the arrangements of Home Department, Government of Balochistan immediately. After establishment of the aforementioned laboratory, the necessary amendments would be made in the Balochistan Government Rules of Business 2012.

Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf appointed as new Naval Chief

Naveed Ashraf got commission in the Operations Branch of Pakistan Navy in 1989. He is a graduate of National Defense University Islamabad, US Naval War College and UK's Royal College of Defense Studies.

Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf has vast experience of working in key command and staff positions. He is currently serving as the Chief of Staff at the Naval Headquarters.

In recognition of his exceptional professional services and valiance, Naveed Ashraf has also been awarded with Hilal-e-Imtiaz (Military) and Tamgha-i-Basalat.



ISLAMABAD (Online): Vice Admiral Naveed Ashraf has been appointed as the new Naval Chief.



QUETTA: Governor Balochistan Malik Abdul Wali Khan Kakar inspecting different sections during his visit to Pakistan Television Quetta Center

WB country director says: Pak needs 'careful' economic management to get macroeconomic stability

ISLAMABAD (APP): The World Bank (WB) on Tuesday suggested Pakistan to undertake the much-needed fiscal reforms including a reduction in tax exemptions and broadening of tax base, terming them "critical" for economic stability and sustainable economic growth.

"Careful economic management and deep structural reforms will be required to ensure macroeconomic stability and growth," WB Country Director for Pakistan Najy Benhassine said while launching "Pakistan Development Update (PDU): Restoring Fiscal Sustainability."

With inflation at record

highs, rising electricity prices, severe climate shocks, and insufficient public resources to finance human development investments and climate adaptation, he said "it is imperative that critical reforms are undertaken to build the fiscal space and public means to invest into inclusive, sustainable, and climate-resilient development."

According to the WB report, Pakistan's economy slowed sharply in FY23 with real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) estimated to have contracted by 0.6 per cent. "The decline in economic activity reflects the accumulation of domestic

and external shocks including the floods of 2022, government restrictions on imports and capital flows, domestic political uncertainty, surging world commodity prices, and tighter global financing."

It said the previous fiscal year ended with significant pressure on domestic prices, fiscal and external accounts and exchange rate, and loss of investors' confidence, adding the difficult economic conditions along with record high energy and food prices, lower incomes, and the loss of crops and livestock due to the 2022 floods, have significantly increased poverty.

36 students affected; condition out of danger: Caretaker CM takes notice of incident of fire in a private academy

Independent Report
QUETTA: The caretaker Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Ali Mardan Khan Domki has taken notice of the incident of fire erupted in a private educational academy located at Pishin stop, Quetta.

According to an official handout issued here on Tuesday, the Chief Minister directed the concerned authorities to provide best medical treatment facilities to the affected students of academy.

He also directed to submit the report from the concerned authorities besides directing them to ensure better safety measures in all educational academies including this one at the Pishin stop.

In this regard, the SOPs should be implemented in true letter and spirit so that no such untoward incidents are occurred in future, the Chief Minister stressed.

Meanwhile, the Medical Superintendent of Sandeman Provincial Headquarter Hospital, Dr. Ishaq Panzezi said that in all 36 affected girl students were brought in the hospital for treatment.

The affected students are being provided necessary medical assistance, and their condition is out of danger, he submitted report to the Chief Minister.

APP adds: About 36 female students received burn injuries in a fire that erupted in a private academy on Tuesday.

Dr. Muhammad Ishaq Panzezi, Medical Superintendent Civil Sandeman Hospital while confirming the incident said a total of thirty-six girls were affected in the incident. However, they are out of danger, he maintained.

Mysterious fire engulfed the renowned Dr Manhoj Academy of the provincial capital. As a result of smoke and gas suffocation, many female students were knocked unconscious and many others suffered burn injuries.

Soon after the incident, fire extinguishers reached the site and the victims of the fire were shifted to civil hospital Quetta for medical aid. Further probe is underway.

Caretaker Finance Minister calls on PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Caretaker Finance Minister Dr Shamshad Akhtar on Tuesday called on Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar. During the meeting, they discussed matters related to Ministry of Finance, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release.

Ten terrorists killed amid intense exchange of fire in Pezu IBO

RAWALPINDI (APP): As many as ten terrorists were killed on Tuesday by the security forces during an intelligence based operation (IBO) conducted on reported presence of terrorists in the general area Pezu of District Tank.

During the operation, intense fire exchange took place between the Army troops and terrorists, an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said.

The ISPR added that these terrorists remained

actively involved in numerous terrorist activities against the security forces as well as extortion and killing of innocent civilians.

A large cache of arms, ammunition and explosives was also recovered during the operation.

It added that the locals of the area appreciated the operation. "Security forces of Pakistan are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country," the new release said.



QUETTA: UNAIDS Director for Pakistan and Afghanistan Ms. Yuki Takemoto meeting with Caretaker Health Minister Dr. Amir Muhammad Khan Jogezi

Daily Voice of Masses
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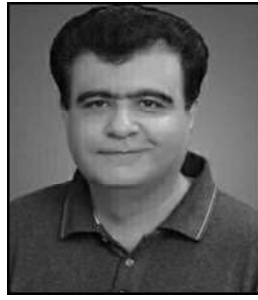
Interim Govt's firm resolve against terrorism & smuggling

The interim government under leadership of Prime Minister, Anwaarul Haq Kakar has expressed its unwavering resolve against the smuggling and terrorism in the country. At a presser alongside Interim Information Minister Murtaza Solangi in Islamabad the other day, caretaker Interior Minister Sarfaraz Bugti asserted that there is a "zero-tolerance policy" against smuggling and terrorism, adding that crackdowns against smuggling have borne fruit in cooperation with provinces. Bugti detailed the anti-smuggling operations in the country and said that the economy was suffering massive losses before the crackdowns began. He reiterated that Indian intelligence agency RAW is involved in terrorist activities in Balochistan. The Interior Minister said that the government had managed to bring down the value of the dollar and was making more efforts to bring it down to its original value. He said that action had been taken against 168 currency smugglers.

He said that data on food had been gathered from all provinces and sugar smuggling had been clamped down upon using modern technology. At this important press conference, Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti revealed that Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Syed Asim Munir has given very clear instructions to his men that if any of them is found involved in smuggling he will not only be court-martialed but also be sent to jail. He also said that thousands of metric tons of wheat, sugar, urea, and petroleum products had been recovered as a result of successful anti-smuggling and anti-hoarding drive by the government.

While giving details, he said around 22,200 metric tons of wheat, 8,800 metric tons sugar, 4,300 metric tons urea, and petroleum products worth 10,195 metric tons so far recovered during the last one month. Regarding the anti-narcotics drive, the Interior Minister said 43 metric tons of drugs were seized with the registration of 200 cases. Talking about the drive against the smuggling of dollars and illegal money exchange, Sarfaraz Bugti said 168 First Information Reports were lodged against people involved in this illegal activity. Sarfaraz Ahmed Bugti went on to say that security officials were involved in cross-border smuggling.

It won't be right if I say straightaway that security forces weren't involved in it, as all this smuggling was being carried out via trucks, not camels. Responding to a question, Sarfaraz Bugti told there are widespread allegations about the involvement of security forces in cross-border smuggling. The remarks of the caretaker minister came amidst the federal government's countrywide crackdown against smugglers involved in the illegal transportation of goods including wheat, sugar and fertilizers and dollars from Pakistan to Afghanistan and petroleum products from Iran to Pakistan. Referring to a meeting, Bugti said that Army Chief had told his people in clear words that those found involved in smuggling would not only be court-martialed but also sent behind the bars. He said that he was part of the meeting. "But their (Army's) process of accountability is not made public and thus doesn't come into our knowledge."



Dr Niaz Murtaza

Democracy stalls

Our democratic journey is like that of a small boat caught in stormy seas. But in a country where the vast majority has not seen the fruits of democracy in real life, it is often hard for many to realise that democracy matters. Even highly educated persons often argue that we need good governance, whether it comes from democracy or autocracy. Such talk reflects the sorry reality that even after 75 years, we have no consensus on democracy, unlike in most Saarc states where democracy is a given and the only debate is on improving it. It also reflects the sordid fact that such people have not done a serious analysis of our own and global trends to realise that only democracy leads to durable good governance. Thus, such talk is reflective of not wisdom but naivete.

Democracy is a form of governance based on participation, tolerance and human rights unlike despotism. But for even many educated people, these are abstract luxuries that we can't afford yet and governance must yield immediate economic progress, infrastructure, utilities and law and order even if via autocracy. A regime that doesn't ensure participation, tolerance and human rights can't give the latter concrete outcomes for too long, as global trends show.

Among the four autocracy types, monarchies are almost all gone, except the Gulf ones which thrive only on oil money. Army regimes today all do poorly in

Myanmar, Sudan, Egypt and West Africa. Theocracy in Iran and Afghanistan is struggling. Among one-party autocracies, only China and Vietnam do well, but most others — as in North Korea, Cambodia, Laos and Central Asia — don't. Also, none of our parties have the strength to be given carte blanche. Against this, dozens of democracies are doing well, even regionally. But democracy takes time to mature and deliver. In India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, it took decades. Yet people there are still stuck with it to later pick its tasty fruits.

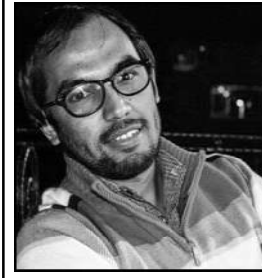
In Pakistan, even a few years of bad outcomes under a severely controlled democracy grappling with the bad legacies of long autocracy are enough for us to yearn for autocracy despite its decades of poor outcomes notwithstanding absolute powers and lavish US aid. Many blame all our ills on democracy even though we have not had even for one day the unhackled democracy some of our neighbours have had for decades. There were no national polls from 1947 to 1958 and a dubious constitution only lasted two years. Since 1958, our history is simple: we have been ruled directly by the establishment or by three parties (the PPP, PML-N and PTI) whose founders were initially brought into politics by the establishment which later fell foul of all three. Thirteen out of our 15 national polls and referendum since 1958 were seen to be rigged by the establishment and one by civilians (1977). We have dubiously invented a fifth autocracy type—hybrid musical chairs—where the establishment keeps changing the junior civilian face once it invariably becomes too big for its boots and starts wanting to don the establishment's bigger

and shinier boots, only to be booted out.

Until 1971, the main impetus for autocracy came from the Bengali numerical edge that banded together western civilian and khaki elites against democracy. Since then, the main impetus is the establishment's unwillingness to let civilians rule. All three civilian elite groups — landed, commercial and middle class — have taken turns at forming parties, winning with varying levels of establishment support initially and then trying to tame it. Our problems are not the fruits of democracy but the thorns of autocracy as even our civilian regimes are establishment-controlled.

The five forms of autocracy can't deliver in a huge, diverse and unruly state like ours. The way forward is democracy. Despite all the beating democracy has taken, its pre-fruits quickly sprout whenever the establishment loosens its grip even briefly as in 1972-77 and 2008-2018 in the form of the Constitution, devolution and fair polls. True, governance was still bad as democracy matures slowly. Yet, our situation now is so bad, we can't wait for democracy to yield good governance slowly. We need good governance right after the next polls to avoid doom. But we must not try to get it via a hybrid regime; it must be brought into politics by the media, civil society, the people, donors etc must democratically pressurise the winner to appoint a competent prime minister and cabinet, from its ranks and beyond, which undertakes equitable reforms while the Zardaris, Sharifs and Imran run their parties and support reforms. The next regime may be a make or break one for us. We can't afford another business-as-usual one. If it fails, so may Pakistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

Washed away



Sajjad Hussain Changezi

Calls for protests against inflated electricity bills and increased fuel prices have become common in Pakistan's big cities, but one wonders how poor families in the rural areas are faring in the midst of such hardship. A household survey of 600 families in district Kech in Balochistan, Pakistan's poorest province, gives shocking details.

Survey respondents included families apparently benefiting from the BRACE Programme, an EU-funded poverty reduction initiative implemented by the Balochistan and National Rural Support Programmes. The survey reveals that although average monthly household income has increased by 29 per cent since the baseline in 2018, monthly expenditure has risen by more than 34pc. Despite the best efforts of NRSP and supporting partners, the end result is that poverty in these households has increased, with a net negative saving amount. If the beneficiaries of a poverty-reduction initiative are suffering setbacks, one can only imagine what rural families not covered by any social protection scheme must be going through.

ForeSight Research, a Karachi-based research firm, conducted the baseline in 2018, midline in 2021 and endline in 2023. The surveys also reveal that the lion's share, ie, 72pc of total household expenditure averaging Rs24,720 is spent on food. This was 60pc in 2018 and 66pc in

2021. If three-fourths of a family's budget is taken up by food expenses, there is no room to build assets or invest in personal and professional skills development. This is also evident from the land ownership pattern which has reduced since 2018. A decline of 5pc has been reported. In other words, most households are living at the basic survival level or even struggling to maintain the ownership of their assets.

Another major finding of the survey is that the impact of climate change has made its way from science conferences and university research papers into the common people's lives. Nothing shows that more clearly than when people from two tehsils of a single district complain about two contrasting weather phenomena. In Tump tehsil in Kech district, 45pc of the respondents complained about 'excessive rainfall', whereas 50pc of the respondents in Turbat tehsil of the same district cited 'lesser rainfall' as the major climate problem. A climate change expert can explain that although the obvious impact may vary from one village to another, droughts and floods are two sides of the same coin, ie, climate change.

The unpredictability of rainfall has made it difficult for rural communities to make arrangements for the safety of their families, crops and livestock. Over the last five years, loss of livestock has reportedly increased from 24pc to 45pc, loss of agricultural output from 15pc to 44pc and damage to personal property from 19pc to 26pc.

Families and communities usually step up in response to external challenges but beyond a certain threshold, they lose their stamina to put up a united front against visible external threats such as climate change. It is a most worrying finding that, after the initial increase in collective efforts to protect the environment, as noted in the midline survey, fewer respondents now say they are continuing tree plantation efforts, preventing deforestation or adapting to extreme weather conditions by means of improved house construction.

Economic hardships beyond a certain threshold also result in social deterioration. This is evident from the fact that the perception of people helping each other in need has decreased from 56pc in 2018 and 30pc in 2021 to 20pc in 2023. Not surprisingly, when surveyors inquired about trust in local representatives, an increased percentage of respondents — 29pc in 2023 compared to 20pc in 2021 and 15pc in 2018 — opted for 'no trust'.

Balochistan has long suffered from political instability and economic deprivation but now poor families across the country are nosediving into poverty. The middle class is rapidly thinning and millions of families find it hard to keep their hopes alive for economic betterment. The economic situation needs a stable political leadership to plan and implement concrete measures, especially in regions vulnerable to climate change.

As for the international community, these findings should serve as yet another reminder that the regions and communities surveyed, though contributing least to environmental pollution are the ones bearing the brunt of climate change. The European Union has focused on Balochistan but the centre and the provincial government need to lead from the front to support the rural, poor and marginalised communities of Balochistan. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

ADB report Political stability following elections to boost business confidence in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said in its recent report that political stability after upcoming elections in Pakistan could boost business confidence and pave way for new standby arrangement with International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Political stability following general elections later this year, if achieved, will boost business confidence, as will a new standby arrangement agreed with the International Monetary Fund to support economic

stabilization and rebuild fiscal buffers," says Asian Development Outlook (ADO) for September 2023. The outlook has slightly revised Pakistan's growth target to 1.9 percent for the fiscal year 2023-24 against its projections of 2 percent made in April 2023. "In Pakistan, growth is forecast at 1.9% in FY2024, slightly below the April projection, assuming continued implementation of reforms and supportive macroeconomic policies, recovery from flood-

induced supply shocks, and improving external conditions," it added. The report revised down the country's growth estimate for FY2023 to 0.3% (0.6% forecast in April). According to report, the revised projection assumes a modest rebound in demand, with private consumption and private investment growing by about 3% and 5%, respectively. Fiscal and monetary tightening will crimp demand, as will inflation staying in double digits. On

the other hand, implementation of the economic adjustment program and a likely smooth general election should boost confidence, while the easing of import controls should support investment as fiscal tightening restrains public consumption. On the output side, better weather conditions will enable an increase in the area under cultivation and in yields, supporting recovery in agriculture. The government's relief package of free seeds, subsidized credit,



Caretaker Federal Minister for National Food Security and Research, Dr. Kausar Abdullah Malik chaired a meeting on Seed System of Pakistan and reviewed its challenges and future prospects at Islamabad.



ISLAMABAD: Caretaker Federal Minister for Railways, Shahid Ashraf Tarar chairing a meeting at Ministry of Railways.

HESCO recovers Rs2.835 billion from consumers, electricity thieves

HYDERABAD (APP): The Hyderabad Electric Supply Company (HESCO) has recovered Rs2.835 billion since September 7 out of Rs169 billion in payable dues over the public and private sector consumers as well as in fines from the electricity thieves. The company's spokesman Sadiq Kubar informed here on Tuesday that 1075 letters for registration of FIRs against electricity thieves had also been submitted in various police stations during the ongoing crackdown against theft and for the recovery. According to him, the police had so far lodged 409

FIRs besides arresting 43 suspected thieves. He said that the power supply from 1,159 pole-mounted transformers had been disconnected so far including the removal of 224 PMTs against which unpaid dues had accrued to Rs365.2 million. He apprised that the highest recoveries of Rs318.28 million and Rs274.75 million were made on September 18 and September 15, respectively, from the defaulting consumers while the lowest recovery of Rs36.9 million was done on September 12.

Rupee gains Rs 1.04 against US Dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani Rupee on Tuesday witnessed 20th consecutive recovery session as it gained Rs 1.04 against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 285.72 against the previous day's closing of Rs 286.76. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 283.5 and Rs 286.3 respectively. The price of the Euro decreased Rs 3.34 to close at Rs 299.56 against the last day's closing of Rs 302.90, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Shahid Tarar says: PR's existing infrastructure, rolling stock to be improved through private investments

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Railways, Communication, and Maritime Shahid Ashraf Tarar Tuesday said the existing infrastructure, rolling stock, factories, and railway stations will be improved through private sector investments. He said this while chairing a high-level meeting at the Ministry of Railways to discuss the

self-reliance plan of Pakistan Railways. Shahid Ashraf said that Pakistan Railways is following three pronged strategy to revive and expand railways in the country which include safety, efficiency, and self-reliance. The minister said that Pakistan Railways has taken several initiatives to cut costs and enhance its revenue.

Chairman HCCI's subcommittee of Traffic, Road management meets SP Traffic

HYDERABAD (APP): On the directives of the Hyderabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry Adeel Siddiqui, Chairman of the Sub-committee of Traffic and Road Management Syed Ali Hassan Laljal along with members Muhammad Adnan Khan and Muhammad Danish met with SP Traffic Ghulam Rasool Sial and discussed the matters related to mutual interest. SP Traffic Ghulam Rasool Sial said that police constables were per-

forming their duty on busy roads, Schools, Colleges and main commercial markets and also assisting to maintain the smooth flow of vehicles on the roads. He said that traffic police sergeants and SO were monitoring the traffic system while the quick response force was also working for the restoration of traffic on emergency basis. He said that steps would be taken immediately for the restoration of traffic in those areas which were highlighted by the sub-committee of HCCI.

KCCI, NUTECH ink MoU for establishment of campus in Karachi

KARACHI (APP): The Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and National University of Technology (NUTECH), on Tuesday, inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for establishment of NUTECH Karachi Campus. President KCCI Iftikhar Ahmed Sheikh and Rector NUTECH Islamabad Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Moazzam Ejaz, signed the MoU here at KCCI, wherein both institutions have mutually agreed upon

principles for establishment of NUTECH Karachi Campus (NKC), said a statement issued here. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by Director General Airport Security Force (ASF) Maj. Gen. Adnan Asif Jha, Pro Rector NUTECH Maj. Gen. Khalid Javed, Registrar NUTECH Brigadier Dr. Syed Adnan Qasim, Chairman Businessmen Group (BMG) Zubair Motiwala and other representatives of business community. As per MoU, NUTECH and KCCI will jointly develop NKC academics, research and skills system based on exports-supported strategies while both the institutions would also collaborate for intellectual, research, academic and professional cooperation to promote creation, development, implementation, transfer and export of indigenous industrial knowledge, technologies and skills.

Chinese policy bank ups loan support for farmland cultivation

BEIJING (APP): The China Development Bank (CDB), one of the country's policy banks, has stepped up loan support for the cultivation of high-standard farmland. By the middle of September, the lender had issued a total of 24.5 billion yuan (about 3.42 billion U.S. dollars) in loans to support farmland cultivation, which is expected to help foster 4.25 million mu (about 283,333 hectares) of high-standard farmland.

Rabi crop cultivation and season starts

Independent Report UMER KOT: Rabi crop cultivation and season has started, Urea pesticide and black marketing continues, farmers and farmers are in trouble and demand to take notice. According to the details, preparations have started for the cultivation of rabi crops such as wheat, springer, wadaf and others in Unarnkot district including Kunari taluka, of black marketing. Due to this, the farmers and the farmers are suffering from severe problems, due to which the spring season and wheat

harvest target is affected. Instead of the rate of 11 thousand 591 rupees, it is being sold at 12 thousand 01 rupees. Even though the rate is higher from 02 hundred to 05 rupees, urea fertilizer is not available in the market. From where they are busy selling urea fertilizer in black at high prices to influential farmers, various fertilizer dealers in their position blamed the ongoing crisis on the fertilizer companies and said that the fertilizer companies did not get the required quantity of urea fertilizer on time.

