



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari distributing commendation shields among military and civil officers who successfully organized Pakistan Day Parade, in a shield distribution ceremony held at, Aiwan-i-Sadr.

PM directs swift action against tax defaulters, evaders

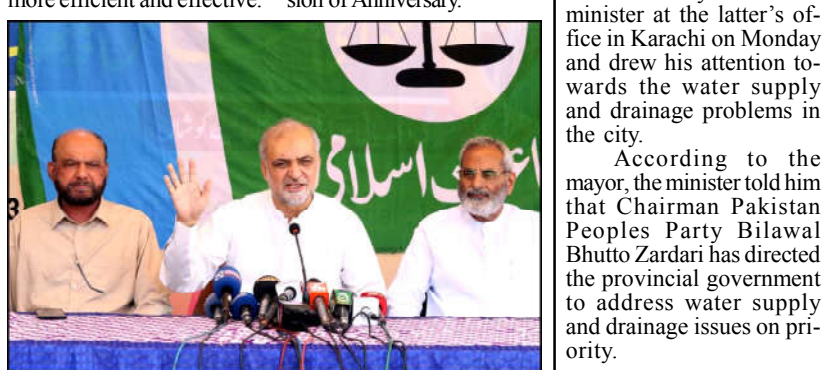
ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday directed initiation of action against tax defaulters and evaders on emergency basis. The prime minister directed for constitution of a committee to identify the hurdles and responsibilities in the track and trace system. The committee would identify the hurdles and people involved in tax theft within seven days. The prime minister chaired a meeting regarding implementation of Track and Trace System in Islamabad, PM Office Media Wing said in a press release. The committee would be tasked to submit future proposals over enforcement of automatic tax system in factories and industries. The meeting was attended by federal ministers including Muhammad Aurangzeb, Ahad Khan Cheema, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Jehanzaib Khan, Chairman FBR Malik Amjad Zubair Tiwana and other senior officials. The prime minister questioned as to why the system was still inactive? He observe that this system should have been made functional in tobacco, sugar, cement and fertilizer industries in the last two years, adding that the system should be placed in other important sectors of the economy. He said that all the legal impediments in the enforcement of track and trace system should be removed. The prime minister directed that the system should be enforced at all the production lines of cement factories, besides he summoned a comprehensive plan over digital strategy and automated track and trace system. He further directed that all those factories that resisted the implementation of track and trace system should be immediately sealed. He opined that besides revenues, the said system could also be utilized for counterfeit and standard products. The prime minister asked for end to fake and unregistered cigarettes and their destruction. The country was facing economic issues and mafia with their connivance had been inflicting damages to the national kitty, he added. The prime minister also asked for seeking help of the international institutions in the track and trace system. The meeting was appraised in detail about the hurdles in the automated enactment of the track and trace system in the cement, sugar, fertilizer and tobacco sectors. The meeting was told that in 14 tobacco factories, the system was fully functional whereas 12 others had been sealed for non-compliance. The system was fully functional in fertilizer industry while it was facing problems in sugar and cement factories due to some technical issues which were being addressed.



ISLAMABAD: The Ambassador-Designate of Pakistan to Cote d'Ivoire, Mr Mahmood Akhtar Mahmood, called on President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

D.C chaired the meeting regarding 45th anniversary of ZAB

LARKANA (APP): Under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Larkana Sharjeel Noor Chana, a meeting of officials of all departments was held in Darbar Hallon Monday, in Deputy Commissioner office Larkana in which the arrangements were reviewed to celebrate the 45th death anniversary of Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, who made the country a constitutional and nuclear power on April 4, upcoming month was taken. Deputy Commissioner instructed the police officials to install walk-through gates and make fool-proof security arrangements so that no untoward incident occurs and also to make the traffic system more efficient and effective. On that occasion, the Deputy Commissioner said that for the people participating in the Anniversary from all corners of the country, in addition to lighting and signboards should be installed on the roads leading to Garhi Khuda Bakhs so that the people coming to the Anniversary will not face any kind of problem. There should be no inconvenience and the officials should carry out the assigned responsibilities cheerfully so that the people participating in the funeral do not face any inconvenience. On this occasion, he instructed the officials of the health department to set up medical camps on the roads leading to Garhi Khuda Bakhs Bhutto on the occasion of Anniversary. The Mayor met the minister at the latter's office in Karachi on Monday and drew his attention towards the water supply and drainage problems in the city. According to the mayor, the minister told him that Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has directed the provincial government to address water supply and drainage issues on priority.



KARACHI: Jamate-Islami (JI) Karachi Chief, Hafiz Naeem-ur-Rehman addresses to media persons during press conference, at Idara-e-Noor-ul-Haq in Karachi.

Pakistan, Iran trade expansion discussed

KARACHI (APP): Kafeel Hussain Group CEO, and renowned architect Kafeel Hussain recently held a meeting with Iran's Counsel General in Karachi Nourian Hussain Nourian, to discuss mutual interests. During the meeting, Kafeel Hussain highlighted the strong commercial and business relations between Pakistan and Iran. He mentioned that Pakistan has experienced a 13.5% annual increase in imports from Iran over the past 24 years and efforts are being made to further enhance this growth. Kafeel Hussain emphasized the importance of formalizing free trade agreements to boost bilateral trade between the two countries. He emphasized that such agreements would facilitate easier access to markets for products and services from both nations, thereby promoting economic stability. In 2022, Pakistan's imports from Iran reached \$1.448 billion, while exports to Iran amounted to \$842.8 million. He also emphasized Iran's potential role in helping Pakistan overcome challenges such as gas shortages and other crises, which would contribute to the economic stability of both nations. Counsel General Hassan Nourian echoed similar sentiments, stating that both countries are taking comprehensive measures to improve their economic conditions.

Ishaq Dar, Britain's FS discuss ways to further enhance bilateral relations

ISLAMABAD (APP): Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar on Monday received a telephone call from Britain's Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Affairs Lord David Cameron, and expressed resolve to enhance bilateral relations in diverse areas. "Today, I received a telephone call from Lord David Cameron, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs of Great Britain", Ishaq Dar wrote on X (formerly Twitter). During the conversation, they discussed bilateral relations and regional issues. They also resolved to continue working closely to further enhance strong bilateral cooperation in trade, investment, education, climate change & people-to-people contacts. Meanwhile, according to a press release issued by the Foreign Office spokesperson, the Foreign Minister, reiterating the importance of Pakistan-UK relationship said that Pakistan and the UK had longstanding, historic relations with multifaceted cooperation. The Foreign Minister emphasized the early conclusion of the Enhanced Strategic Partnership (ESP) agreement to take relations to the next level. The foreign minister stressed on the need to enhance bilateral cooperation in trade and investment, people to people contacts and climate. He stressed on the need for early resumption of PIA flights between Pakistan and the UK which would further bolster linkages, particularly in view of the large Pakistani diaspora in the UK.

CS Sindh for collecting data to issue Kisan Card

KARACHI (APP): The Chief Secretary Sindh, Syed Asif Haider Shah, Monday, instructed provincial agriculture secretary to obtain data required for issuance of Kisan Card with the help of available database of different government departments and organizations within 15 days. The CS Sindh was presiding over a meeting held here to review the matters pertaining to issuance of Kisan Card. Secretary Agriculture Rafiq Ahmed Buriro, Senior Member Board of Revenue Baqaullah Uner, CEO Sindh People's Housing Foundation, Khalid Mehmood Sheikh and other officers attended the meeting. Syed Asif Haider Shah informed the meeting that Sindh Cabinet in its recent meeting taken a decision to issue Kisan Card to farmers and growers owning 12.5 acres of land. He said that the farmers will be assisted through the Kisan Card during wheat procurement process or in case of any natural calamity or disaster. The meeting reviewed the database of various departments including Revenue Department, Social Protection, Sindh People's Housing Foundation, Flood affected and Agriculture Department.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development Chaudhry Salik Hussain in a meeting with the President Pakistani Overseas Community, Malawi Country in East Africa Chaudhry Karamat.

Surge in activities of kacha robbers intensify worries of businessmen: Mian Zahid

KARACHI (INP): Chairman of National Business Group Pakistan, President Pakistan Businessmen and Intellectuals Forum, and All Karachi Industrial Alliance, and former provincial minister Mian Zahid Hussain has said that surge in activities of the kacha robbers has intensified the worries of business community. Talking to business community on Monday, he said that the dacoits were damaging the economy, the reputation of the country, and the aviation industry. Mian Zahid Hussain said that Pakistan might see a cut in the airlines' flights from other countries coming to Pakistan. The lives of the people have become tormented due to the bandits and the aviation industry was also suffering, he added. The business leader said that dacoits of kacha have become very active on social media, in which they can be seen armed with rockets, missiles, and anti-aircraft weapons. The presence of anti-aircraft armaments with them has caused a wave of concern all over the world, he maintained. The foreign airlines whose flights come to Pakistan are worried that the bandits may target their planes and cause heavy damage. The business leader said that the state of the country's aviation industry is not good. Many countries used to give warnings to travelers about PIA, but now the passengers have also been deprived of the facility of insurance. In case of an incident, the travelers will not get any compensation. At this time, a large number of flights are being canceled. If the situation remains the same, the number of foreign airlines flying to Pakistan may decrease.



KARACHI: People of Hindu community celebrate Holi festival at a temple in the Provincial Capital.

Maryam vows to end economic woes jointly

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif in a meeting with Federal Finance Minister Muhammad Aurangzeb discussed the country's economic challenges and vowed to pull Pakistan out of economic crisis through joint efforts. "Pakistan is a peaceful country that believes in dialogue for cooperation and understanding," he expressed while addressing the 148th IPU Assembly in Geneva on "Parliamentary diplomacy: building bridges for peace and understanding". The Speaker said that fostering bilateral and joint partnerships through the Parliamentary Friendship Groups among parliaments of the world would strengthen the parliament-to-parliament contacts, said a press release issued here Monday. While appreciating the IPU's efforts for peace and understanding across the globe, he has said the world is witnessing death and destruction in Gaza at an unimaginable scale as over 30,000 civilians have been killed, most of whom are women and children. He expressed his resolve that Pakistan would continue to raise grave concerns at the situation in Gaza where heart-rending images of death and destruction from Gaza are emerging. Ayaz Sadiq also said that Israel's actions violated all international humanitarian and human rights law deliberately attacking civilian targets and as such, constituted war crimes and crimes against humanity.



KARACHI: Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan receives warm reception at TDAP, engages in discussions on promotional activities and exhibition schedules.

Transgender's delegation meets Mayor LMC

LARKANA (APP): The delegation of transgender led by Samran and Priya met with Mayor Larkana Municipal Corporation (LMC) Anwar Ali Nawaz Luhar, at his office on Monday. The delegation apprised for Jobs quota and financial assistance through Benazir Income Support Program (BISP). During meeting, Mayor LMC Anwar Ali Nawaz Luhar reminded the delegation that the municipal corporation will take necessary steps to solve the legitimate problems of transgender and send a letter to the relevant authorities to allocate the quota in Jobs of Khawaja Sarah (Transgender's).

Roman Catholic Council arranges Iftar dinner for dignitaries of all religions

KARACHI (APP): The Commission, for Inter Religious Harmony of the Roman Catholic Church has arranged special 'Iftar Dinner' for people belonging to all religions here the other day at the Auditorium of Saint Patrick College. The Deputy Speaker Sindh Assembly Naveed Anthony, Catholic Bishop Diocese of Karachi K Tony Martis, Father Shakeel, Kashif Anthony, Musafir Pakistani Mukhtar Bhai Ji, Goswami Vijay Maharaj of Hindu Maharaj Council, Senator Anwer Lal Din, Shahid Anwer of Church Council of Pakistan and other dignitaries attended the Iftar dinner.

Fostering parliamentary diplomacy; essential for world peace: Ayaz Sadiq

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq has said that upholding values of democracy, peace and the rule of law are essential for global growth and development. "Pakistan is a peaceful country that believes in dialogue for cooperation and understanding," he expressed while addressing the 148th IPU Assembly in Geneva on "Parliamentary diplomacy: building bridges for peace and understanding". The Speaker said that fostering bilateral and joint partnerships through the Parliamentary Friendship Groups among parliaments of the world would strengthen the parliament-to-parliament contacts, said a press release issued here Monday. While appreciating the IPU's efforts for peace and understanding across the globe, he has said the world is witnessing death and destruction in Gaza at an unimaginable scale as over 30,000 civilians have been killed, most of whom are women and children. He expressed his resolve that Pakistan would continue to raise grave concerns at the situation in Gaza where heart-rending images of death and destruction from Gaza are emerging. Ayaz Sadiq also said that Israel's actions violated all international humanitarian and human rights law deliberately attacking civilian targets and as such, constituted war crimes and crimes against humanity.



PESHAWAR (INP): Peshawar High Court's (PHC) appellate tribunal on Monday allowed Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders Murad Saeed, Khurram Zeeshan, and Azam Swati to contest the Senate elections. Earlier on March 22, the Appellate Tribunal of Lahore High Court (LHC) accepted the appeal of PTI worker Sanam Javed and allowed her to contest the Senate elections. Sanam Javed moved to the Appellate Tribunal after her nomination papers were rejected by the Election Commission of Pakistan. The tribunal accepted Sanam Javed's appeal against the rejection of nomination papers. LHC Justice Shahid Bilal Hasan of the tribunal pronounced a reserved verdict that was reserved on Thursday after the completion of arguments from both sides.

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KARACHI: Human Rights Commission of Pakistan (HRCP) Chairperson, Asad Iqbal Butt along with others addresses to media persons during press conference held at Karachi press club.

Meeting reviews price hikes of essential commodities

MIRPURKHAS (APP): A high-level meeting convened by Provincial Minister for Food and Irrigation Jam Khan Shoro on Monday, has taken decisive action in a bid to curb rampant price hikes during the holy month of Ramadan. According to APP correspondent, the provincial minister praised the district administration's efforts to fix food prices, noting that complaints of shortages have been addressed. He also acknowledged the need to address the shortage of fertilizers, emphasizing that a comprehensive strategy has been adopted to improve the situation. We are committed to providing relief to the people during this blessed month, he declared and said the Sindh government has established monitoring committees at both provincial and divisional levels to keep a close watch on prices. In a separate meeting with revenue and irrigation officials, Shoro announced plans for a major drainage scheme to mitigate the impact of rainwater from Hakra drain. A massive gate will be installed to prevent flooding, ensuring the safety of communities during the monsoon season.