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ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting regarding country wide Anti-smuggling drive.

PM directs to accelerate countrywide anti-smuggling drive, reiterates zero leniency

ISLAMABAD (APP): The prime minister lauded the committee for identifying the elements involved in misuse of Afghan Transit Trade for smuggling and the officers facilitating them. The prime minister was told that a list of smugglers, hoarders, and their facilitating officers have been forwarded to the law enforcement agencies and provincial governments. The prime minister directed for removing the identified officers from their respective posts and initiate disciplinary proceedings against them. Prime Minister Shehbaz also asked the law enforcing agencies (LEAs) and intelligence agencies to cooperate with each other to curb the smuggling. Calling for punishing the smugglers and drug dealers, the prime minister asked the Law Ministry to carry out immediate necessary legislation for the purpose. Affirming no leniency for looters of public money and their facilitators, Prime Minister Shehbaz directed for the measures to provide alternative earning opportunities and conducive atmosphere to the youths living in the frontier regions. He emphasized more swift and effective monitoring of sale and smuggling of Afghan Transit Trade goods in the country, and called for third party audit of the monitoring system. The prime minister ordered to ensure complete elimination of sugar smuggling and immediate release of funds to examine the prevalence of drugs consumption at the national level. The meeting was apprised of the smuggling, misuse of Afghan Transit Trade, drugs, besides sugar, wheat, fertilizer, petroleum products and illegal weapons.

Two terrorists killed in suicide attack on foreign nationals vehicle in Karachi

President, PM condemn attack; laud timely police response

KARACHI (Online): Two terrorists were killed and 3 persons including 2 security guards were injured in suicide attack on foreign nationals vehicle in Mansehra colony in the area of Landhi Karachi. According to police two persons who were killed in suicide attack and firing were attackers. Police and Rescue teams reached the scene and started rescue operation. The injured were shifted to hospital. Those who were injured in explosion include Noor Muhammad, Langar Khan and Suleman Rafiq. 2 injured are stated to be in precarious condition. No foreigner included in injured persons. Foreign citizens were there in the vehicle who remained secure. According to Malir Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Tariq Elahi, all foreign nationals have been transported to safe and secure location. Elahi confirmed that the explosion was a suicide attack, with the crime scene revealing the presence of grenades in a bag left behind by the attackers. Deputy Inspector General (DIG) East, Ghulam Azfar Mahesar, disclosed that one terrorist detonated himself in the suicide attack, while another was neutralised by police. One terrorist fled. Efforts are under way to identify the remaining assailants through fingerprints, utilising data from the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday strongly condemned a suicide attack that took place in Karachi's Landhi area, lauding the timely response by the police to avert casualties. In separately issued statements, both the president and prime minister said that the timely action by the police averted a huge life loss, and reiterated their firm resolve to wipe out terrorism from the country. "The whole nation will unitedly fight out the terrorism. The miscreants will be rooted out from the country," the president remarked.

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia vow to solidify efforts in defence collaboration

RAWALPINDI (Online): Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir has affirmed Pakistan Army's continuing support towards capacity building of Royal Saudi Land Forces. The assertion was made during a meeting between Army Chief General Syed Asim Munir and Assistant Minister of Defence, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Major General (Engineer) Talal Bin Abdullah Al-Otaibi, who called on the Army Chief at GHQ in Rawalpindi. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest and measures to further enhance bilateral defence collaboration including defence production and military training were discussed. The visiting dignitary acknowledged Pakistan Army's achievements and sacrifices in war against terrorism and Army's valuable contributions towards regional peace and stability. The Saudi Assistant Defence Minister also participated in the 5th Meeting of Pakistan-Saudi Arabia Defence Collaboration at GHQ, which he co-chaired by Chief of General Staff of Pakistan Army. The forum discussed challenges to global and regional security and their implications on Defence Forces. It noted that rapid advancements in modern technologies necessitated defence industrial cooperation in critical capabilities between the two brotherly countries. Both sides reiterated their resolve to solidify the efforts in defence collaboration with focused approach to target specific capabilities in land, air and sea domains. In this context, concrete proposals were deliberated by the forum to meet tangible objectives within specific timelines.

President for enhancing road & railway connectivity with Turkiye

Confers NI (M) award on Chief of Turkish General Staff

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Friday conferred the Nishan-i-Imtiaz (Military) award on Chief of Turkish General Staff, General Metin Gurak in recognition of his illustrious services and contribution to strengthening Pakistan-Turkiye defence relations. The award was conferred at a special investiture ceremony held at the Aiwan-e-Sadr and attended by services chiefs and parliamentarians. Meanwhile President Asif Ali Zardari called for enhancing road and railway connectivity between Pakistan and Turkiye to further promote people-to-people contacts between the two brotherly countries. He said that overland transport was cost-effective, which would not only lead to increased interactions between the two nations but would also enhance bilateral economic ties. The president expressed these views while talking to the Turkish Chief of General Staff, General Metin Gurak, who along with his delegation, called on him, at Aiwan-e-Sadr. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Sahir Shamsah Mirza, and Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan, Dr Mehmet Pacaci, also attended the meeting. Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan was committed to further deepening mutually beneficial cooperation with Turkiye in all areas of common interest. He urged the need to increase bilateral cultural exchanges, particularly in the areas of literature and poetry, to bring the people of two brotherly countries further closer. The president highlighted that Turkiye was a sincere friend of Pakistan and both countries had enjoyed deep fraternal ties, which needed to be further strengthened for the mutual benefit of the two sides.



Interior ministry decides to launch joint operation in Kacha area of Sindh

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi, after consultation with all stakeholders in the interior ministry decided to conduct a joint operation in Kacha area of Sindh province, with full force to clear the area from dacoits. An important meeting of the National Action Plan Implementation Review Committee was held at NACTA headquarters here on Friday under the chairmanship of the Interior Minister which was attended by Federal Interior Secretary, Head NACTA, DG FIA, Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Azad Kashmir and Gilgit-Baltistan. IGs and provincial secretaries Interior besides National Coordinator NACTA, all teams of National Action Plan and Intelligence agencies and Chief Commissioners also attended the meeting. The top brass after detailed brainstorming, decided to conduct a joint operation in the Kacha area with full force and close coordination between the provinces and all stake holders to clear the area from dacoits. Detailed consultation and consideration was made to provide new modern technology to the police across Pakistan. The meeting also carefully reviewed the measures taken regarding the security of Chinese citizens while All the IGs gave a detailed briefing on security and safety measures for Chinese citizens in Pakistan.

Munir discusses issues on UN agenda with Iran's top diplomat

UNITED NATIONS (INP): Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Munir Akram, met Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian at UN Headquarters, in New York on Thursday. They exchanged views on the close cooperation between the two brotherly countries and discussed various issues on the UN agenda, including the UN Security Council, without elaborating, said a press release of the Pakistan Mission. "The Iranian top diplomat was here in connection with the Council's high-level debate on the situation in the Middle East, including the question of Palestine."



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir exchanging views with Major General (Engineer) Talal Bin Abdullah Al-Otaibi, Assistant Minister of Defence Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) during meeting held at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi.

'No criticism on Pakistan allowed in Parliament', says Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday lambasted the Opposition benches for hurling criticism against the state and warned that no criticism against the country would be allowed. Speaking on Point of Order at the National Assembly, the Minister said the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) had damaged the country's interests through its concocted narrative of foreign conspiracy that allegedly resulted in the regime change and put a dent to the foreign policy of the country. He said the PTI's founder had been jeopardizing the foreign interests of the country and he compromised the confidentiality of the entire diplomatic communication. The PTI leadership had been accusing foreign countries for interference in the country which was retracted by the spokesperson of the PTI through its official social media handles, he added. The Minister underscored that the country's economy was stabilizing which was discussed globally by prestigious institutions like Bloomberg, UNDP, Asian Development Bank that claimed that investment was coming to Pakistan and it was leading to its economic revival and would help in ending inflation. "We demand that a joint resolution should be tabled for the friendly countries and no criticism should be allowed against them from any quarters or political parties. The PTI founder from Adialya Jail is guiding his party members to make anti-state narrative which would never be permitted," he said.

PPP will not join govt, affirms Bilawal

ISLAMABAD (INP): Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto has firmly declared that the decision not to join the central government is irrevocable. Speaking the media at the Parliament House, he emphasised that despite talks of reconciliation during the joint session of Parliament by the President, the opposition remains disinterested in parliamentary affairs. The PPP chairman criticised the opposition for prioritising personal gains over the welfare of the people, condemning unruly behavior such as abuse and whistling in the House as uncivilised. Commending the Sindh Police for their efforts in thwarting a terrorist incident in Karachi, the former foreign minister expressed concern over the trend of terrorist organizations operating within Pakistan with support from abroad. He attributed the current rise in terrorism to the policies implemented by the former PTI government.

PM calls UAE President to admire his leadership role during rains

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday held a telephonic conversation with President of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. The prime minister's call was centered on his admiration for the strong resolve and impeccable efficiency with which the UAE leadership had confronted the challenges that had emerged from the recent rains in the country, a PM Office news release said. He lauded the UAE President, who had once again demonstrated his outstanding leadership qualities and proven his strong commitment to ensuring the welfare of the Emirati people. The prime minister said that Pakistan had also witnessed heavy rains in recent days, resulting in loss of many precious lives. He called for collective actions to combat the challenge of climate change and suggested that both countries strengthen their collaboration in the field. The UAE president expressed appreciation for the prime minister's good wishes and reciprocated the warm sentiments for the people affected from rains and flooding in Pakistan.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs & Gilgit-Baltistan and Frontier Regions, Engineer Amir Muqam receiving briefing from Federal Secretary Ministry of KA & GB Jawad Raffique and Administrator J&K Properties about J&K Properties in Punjab Province.



ISLAMABAD: Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi chairing the meeting of National Action Plan Coordination Committee at NACTA Headquarters.

Modi govt broken all records of oppression to win elections: Sultan

MIRPUR (AJK) (APP): Kashmir (IIOJK) region. He further said that India's intelligence agency, RAW was engaged in global terrorist activities. Both the leaders discussed various matters of mutual concern with a focus on the political and human rights situation in the occupied territory. Sultan emphasized the importance of unity among all political parties in AJK to expose India's nefarious designs and its efforts to suppress the legitimate struggle of Kashmiris.

ATC extends interim bail of PTI founder in 3 cases

LAHORE (APP): An anti-terrorism court (ATC) on Friday extended interim bail of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder in three cases, related to May-9 violence, until April 26. ATC Judge Arshad Javed conducted the proceedings on bail petitions of the PTI founder in cases of attacks on Jinnah House, Askari Tower, and torching of Shadman police station. An associate of the PTI founder's counsel, Barrister Salman Safdar, appeared and sought time, citing the engagements of senior counsel, during the hearing.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of the Republic of Kazakhstan Yezhan Kistafin called on Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at Parliament House.

IHC seeks medical report regarding health of Pervaiz Elahi

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has sought medical report in respect of health of former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi besides directing PIMS administration to visit Adialya jail and submit report thereof on Monday. Justice Arbab Tahir remarked Pervaiz Elahi is not our prisoner now. We have to see this too. The powers in connection with house arrest with federal or provincial government.

Muqam stresses optimal use of J&K state properties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Kashmir Affairs, Gilgit-Baltistan and SAFRON Engineer Amir Muqam issued a directive on Friday urging officers to develop viable proposals for optimal utilisation of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) state properties across the country. The announcement came during his visit to the office of Jammu & Kashmir State Property, where he was briefed by the administrator on various state properties, located in different areas of Punjab. Accompanied by Federal Secretary of the Ministry of Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) Jawad Raffique and other officials, Minister Muqam emphasised the importance of safeguarding those properties against any form of illegal encroachment. He underscored the need for comprehensive strategies to ensure protection and efficient utilisation of these assets for the benefit of the region and its people. The federal minister also ordered for making business plans for all available commercial plots, and submitting those plans within 10 days.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

X post facto

As has become its modus operandi, the state is using smoke and mirrors to try to justify its decision to ban X, formerly Twitter. After weeks of denial and plain misrepresentation, including in statements made to the courts, the government recently owned up to blocking the popular social media platform for Pakistani users "in the interest of upholding national security, maintaining public order, and preserving the integrity of our nation".

From representations made on behalf of the interior ministry before the Islamabad High Court, it appears that the 'threat' to Pakistan's national security from X was flagged by intelligence agencies in a 'confidential' report.

The interior ministry thereafter cut off Pakistan's access to X, seemingly without even bothering to fulfil all procedural requirements. One of the 'justifications' now being given by the government for this 'punitive action' is that X refuses to localise its operations here and "does not obey Pakistani laws".

While the state is otherwise entitled and, indeed, expected to take any measures necessary to protect the country's interests, it cannot do so without providing lawful justifications. In the current political climate, where there is widespread public dissatisfaction with the state's policies, it is also rather difficult to take any claim regarding some unspecified 'threat' from social media at face value.

If there really was some clear and present danger to the country from the Pakistani people's ability to access and post on X, which necessitated an immediate ban, this ought to have been spelt out for both the courts and the general public when the X ban was first challenged in the courts. Instead, as one recalls, the government's representatives kept denying that a ban was even in place. When questioned, some of the caretaker ministers had smugly shrugged it off, telling those people who were affected to 'live with it' or use a VPN service.

It may be recalled that the X ban came in the midst of a raging controversy over the widespread manipulation of election results, right after a senior bureaucrat had issued a damning public 'confession' of his own complicity in the same. The correlation of these events, when seen in the broader context of the ongoing campaign to keep mass media in line and 'under control', would give anyone ample cause to doubt the government's rather convenient 'national interest' justification.

As far as the government's complaint regarding X's refusal to open a local office is concerned, it should realise that global tech companies are very wary of markets where regulations are opaque and subject to official whims. No company will want to move to a country where the state can quietly shut down a major global service without justification or due process. Our decision-makers should realise the harm they are causing.

Lethal streets

Dr Noman Ahmed

Karachi has been in the throes of brutal street crime including robberies, muggings and killings for several months. The recent killing of Syed Turab Hussain Zaidi for resisting robbery is a case in point. The situation has deteriorated to a point where even places of worship are not safe — recently, three worshippers at a mosque in Karimabad were stripped of their cash and valuables by a mugger.

While opposition leaders criticise the performance of the PPP government, officials are quick to lay the blame on multiple stakeholders, including the previous caretaker set-up, leading to the public's loss of trust in the police and administration. According to a report in this paper, between 2022 and 2024, more than 250 people were killed and over 1,000 injured in street crime. Meanwhile, muggings are indiscriminate. From call-centre and night shift workers, students, and domestic help to clerics, shopkeepers and vendors, the menace has spared few. The alarming rise in violence is deeply worrying and the provincial government must address it as a top priority.

However, provincial administrators are still hopeful that certain interventions, including the swift implementation of the much-trumpeted Karachi Safe City Project, will make a difference. The multibillion-rupee venture aims to make city roads and streets safer with CCTV cameras and other monitoring apparatus. While these are a step in the right direction, the real concern is not about viewing a crime but responding to it with speed and competence on the part of law enforcers. Instead of relying on a failed scheme, the au-

thorities must focus on enhancing the training and fitness of cops, set higher standards for recruitment, and jettison political 'recommendations' to appease constituents.

It must also be kept in mind that Karachi comprises over 10,000 kilometres of roads and streets, along with other public spaces that require a vigilant eye — bus terminals, parks, playgrounds, pedestrian bridges, parking lots, open markets, etc. This figure does not include lanes and cul-de-sacs in the city's dense urban neighbourhoods.

Monitoring these vast spaces requires innovative strategies, which must begin with reviewing and modernising the current approach of the law enforcers. The traffic police, for instance, seldom apprehend swanky vehicles that flout the law, but pounce on smaller vehicles to add to their traffic challan list. Moreover, cars with tinted glass and large jeeps featuring gun-toting private guards break traffic signals and the law with impunity.

People are, therefore, forced to take their own measures. Many neighbourhoods have installed metallic barriers with private guards to close off streets. While the law does not permit restricting access to public spaces, resident groups see it as their sole option. Needless to say, this was the norm a decade ago when the city was gripped by political bloodshed; while the Karachi operation of 2014 did bring some relief, the situation worsened soon after.

Once again, gated communities and streets have returned to the city landscape as many believe that reduced access can staunch the onslaught of fierce violations. But sadly, these

measures have only had a marginal impact as people cannot be confined in fortified precincts; they have to leave for work, or do chores, or get out of their homes for several other things. In so doing, the fragile law-and-order situation haunts them.

Besides, one of the fallouts of curtailing access to neighbourhoods is its effect on the urban poor. A research conducted by this writer some years ago revealed that the installation of barriers and other physical obstructions prevented mobile street vendors, greengrocers and pushcart operators from earning a livelihood from households in gated communities.

However, there are certain effective practices that residents can consider adopting. The Citizens Police Liaison Committee should take the lead and undertake neighbourhood surveillance with a local watch-and-ward system that is supported and assisted by residents.

In the past, this particular crime-control measure proved effective in many neighbourhoods. Several peri-urban settlements, such as Orangi Town, maintained a street chowkidari system to keep an eye on visitors, passers-by and vehicles, so that suspicious movement and individuals could be apprehended. The arrangement should be modernised and bolstered with surveillance devices. Furthermore, alarms and tracking tools fitted in cars and bikes, and advanced geo-fencing mechanisms can rein in street criminals. But Karachi demands more than neighbourhood management. A multipronged policy that entails police reforms, addresses socioeconomic deprivation and convinces the public to trust the law enforcers could prove an effective solution. — Courtesy Dawn

Zubeida Mustafa

In his memoirs, Foundations and Form, Mukhtar Husain writes about his first school experience: "In 1955, I started attending Mrs Corks' Private School which was run by a British lady, Mrs Corks. The Corkses lived in a stone house with terracotta roof tiles, located in its own enclave within our Colony and surrounded by a low wall. I was just five years old and hated going to school every morning. I would cry all the way and would go on crying in school as well. At times, I was so difficult that I was sent home during the mid-morning break. Shaukat Aziz [later on, the prime minister of Pakistan], who was perhaps a year older, was often asked to walk me home. But I settled down and soon I was doing well..."

I was curious to find out what upset Mukhtar at school. He told me that he had no idea. But I suspect it was the 'strangeness' of the language used at school which did not allow him to express himself fully. Being an intelligent child, he must have been frustrated. He was accustomed to speaking Urdu at home and the school was all English. A child cries when he feels insecure. Being away from the comfort zone of his home that has his mother's reassuring presence can be quite distressing for a young child. Add to that the barrier of language that prevents the child from communicating with others, and the situation becomes quite distressing.

In any case, Mukhtar was fortunate to have an understanding teacher who sent him home when she felt that Mukhtar was inconsolable. He later adjusted, and to his credit

Why insecure?

learnt English, which is evident from the impeccable language of his memoirs.

Nearly 70 years on, education in Pakistan is in the doldrums. A major factor responsible for the mess is the bizarre and hybrid pedagogy that is employed in the low-fee private- and public-sector schools, with the exception of Sindh (however, there is little by way of education there). The language used by the teachers is commonly spoken by the population of the area where the school is located. The textbooks are in Urdu or English, which the students are expected to read, and then write their answers to the questions accordingly.

As a result, there is a lot of rote learning going on and hardly any original writing and critical thinking is taking place in our classrooms. We still have to decide which language is to be the medium of instruction and what is to be the role of the mother tongue in the education system.

Our educationists do not even know how a child learns a language and how it should be used in school to maximise the benefits of education. In a nutshell, the child learns a language the natural way, ie, by listening to it. This process begins soon after birth. Children pick up the language of their community by listening to their family members, and later on, in the marketplace playground, so to speak. They do not have to be taught grammar or syntax; these come naturally to them by listening to others. That is why everyone (if not handicapped) speaks a language even if he has not attended school. Literacy is another ball game and has to be

taught in an organised setting.

By trying to introduce in our education system another language that is not familiar to the child, and through teachers who lack competency in the other language themselves, we confuse the language acquisition process.

The worst impact is on the child's ability to read and her interest in books. Researchers say that the more children read, the more they know. This, in turn, enhances their cognitive development. It is also said that if reading is made an unpleasant and laborious exercise from the start a child would just not enjoy reading books. The fact is that a person who is an avid reader also enjoys it.

Our education system is destroying our children by thrusting on them a language unfamiliar to them. This is done prematurely, without paving the ground for it. It is done in most cases by teachers who are not proficient in the language themselves. The method is also wrong. Instead of focusing on the vocabulary and starting with the spoken language, we want to teach them literacy skills that can be tedious. It is no wonder then that our children shun books. They grow up to be book-hating adults. Children are thus denied the experience of self-discovery that comes from reading books. This is a tremendous loss; the self-directed learning instinct is never kindled in them. Critical thinking that is innate to human beings is destroyed. That would explain why the book industry in Pakistan is not doing well at all. When children have not been exposed to books in the language they can understand and enjoy, they grow up with no interest in them. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Minister advocates for IT sector growth with public-private coop.

LAHORE (APP): Minister of State for Information Technology and Communications Shaza Fatima Khawaja has reiterated the government's dedication to enhancing the IT industry by endorsing and aiding the private sector.

Addressing the participants at the Global Digital Summit during the 24th ICTN Asia Conference at the Expo Centre here on Friday, she lauded the collective zeal for technology and its role in transforming economies and societies. She underscored the value of such summits in fostering collaboration and exchanging knowledge among stakeholders from both public and private sectors.

She emphasised the government's efforts, under Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's vision, to review policies and legislation to

better support the private sector's growth and innovation. The minister stressed creation of a conducive environment in Pakistan for the private sector, focusing on business culture, technology, and the ecosystem. The minister pointed out cybersecurity and the skills gap as major challenges, but also as opportunities, especially in leveraging Pakistan's young population for national development. She highlighted the need to modernise education systems to address immediate lack of skilled labour and employable graduates.

She referenced the industry-academia bridge programme that facilitates on-job training for university students, ensuring their employability upon graduation. She also called for a quicker adaptation of university curricula to keep up with the fast-

paced industry changes. The minister outlined the complexities the universities face with industry advancements and the importance of international exposure for Pakistan.

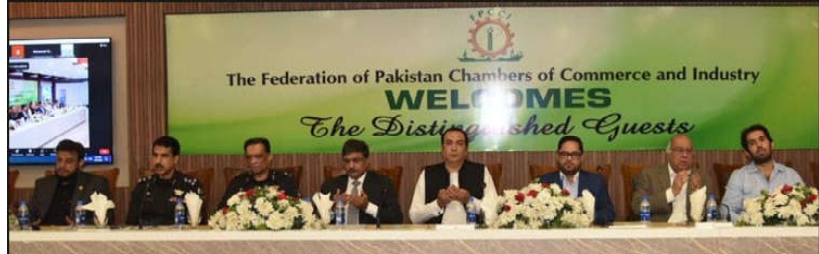
She announced plans for a National Digitization Plan, focusing on governance, economy, and society, which will incorporate modern concepts like the Pakistan stack to streamline services for individuals.

Shaza Khawaja emphasised the government's commitment to engaging with citizens and inviting collaboration for the success of digitization initiative. She discussed the importance of public-private partnerships, ongoing policy developments in data protection and cybersecurity, and the need for an environment conducive to international business.

Atif Ikram Sheikh says: FPCCI supports innovation Pak customs implements live system to control mis-invoicing

Independent Report

KARACHI: Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh, President FPCCI, has apprised that Pakistan Customs held a high-profile and interactive orientation session on "Implementation of Linking International Value (LIVE) System under Innovation Framework to Control Mis-invoicing" on Friday. The session was hosted by FPCCI at its head office at the



Federation House and was attended by prominent trade and industry personalities, he added.

Mr. Atif Ikram Sheikh appreciated the efforts of customs; and, especially Directorate of Valuation, Karachi for creating a conducive environment for trade and industry under the leadership of Member Customs Operations, Dr. Fareed Iqbal Qureshi.

Member Customs Operations addressed the audience over zoom in detail regarding the main features and benefits of the LIVE System.



WASHINGTON: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue, Muhammad Aurangzeb met with Citibank officials.

Railways unveils new fuel management system

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan Railways has unveiled a state-of-the-art fuel management system, designed to tackle the current challenges.

As per the announcement made on Friday, Railways Chief Executive Officer Amir Ali Baloch has confirmed a new partnership with Pakistan State Oil (PSO), which will now be responsible for ensuring a consistent fuel supply within the

railway's oil supply facilities. The collaboration with PSO brings the introduction of the latest fuel management technology, promising substantial benefits for the railway's operations. In line with the standards set by the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA), the railway's fuel supply centres are set to undergo comprehensive upgrades to meet international benchmarks.

ICCI President rendered unprecedented services for business community: Rajput

ISLAMABAD (INP): Group leader Blue Area, Yousuf Rajput recounting the achievements of President Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari for welfare of the business community has pledged his and his colleagues unwavering support to the ICCI President. He along with other business leaders was addressing an impressive ceremony held here at Chamber House in honour of the office bearers of different Traders Welfare Associations who have recently proceeded back after performing Umra.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Founder Group, ICCI Khalid Iqbal Malik said that the business community of Capital was indebted to ICCI President for his unprecedented support for the flourishing of its businesses. He said that Zafar Bakhtawari has been spending millions of rupees from his personal account not only on the welfare of traders and civil society but for the promotion of education in the shape of Water filtration plants and computers. Secretary General United Business Group and former President ICCI Zafar Bakhtawari said that the sitting ICCI President Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari.

IFAD Country Director reviews rural economic project

PESHAWAR (APP): The Country Director of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) Fernanda Thomaz Da Rocha on Friday held a meeting with Syed Intiaz Hussain Shah, the Additional Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, to conduct a comprehensive review of the Rural Economic Transformation Project (RETP). The Chief Economist Arifullah Awan and Chief IDS, Sarah Rehman were also present in the meeting.

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships namely, Wan Hai, Express Athens, Al-Mothanna, Pelagic Tarpon, Ullswater and Milaha Qatar scheduled to load/offload Container, Rice, Mogas, LPG and LNG, berthed at Container Terminal, Grain Terminal, Oil Terminal, Engro Terminal and Gasport Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile two more ships, Project-A and HansaOsla carrying Sugar and Gasoline also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

PM calls for further strengthening economic, trade ties with Turkiye

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Friday reiterated the government's resolve to further strengthen economic relations and trade partnership with Turkiye.

He was talking to a delegation of the Turkish investors which called him here at the Prime Minister Office.

The Turkish investors, expressing confidence in the leadership of the prime minister, took keen interest in investing in Pakistan's diverse areas.

The prime minister said the people of Pakistan and Turkiye had a long-standing brotherly relationship spanning

centuries. He said reforms had been made in the system to take full advantage of the potential of foreign investment in Pakistan.

Ambassador of Turkiye to Pakistan Mehmet Pacaci, CEO Terminal YAPI Cenk Coskun and other Turkish and Pakistani officials participated in the meeting.

Federal ministers Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Ahmad Khan Cheema, Prime Minister's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal and relevant senior officials also attended the meeting.

The delegation thanked the prime minister for the warm welcome.



ISLAMABAD: Ambassador of UAE Hamad Obaid AlZaabi called on Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik.

Food exports grew by 48.17% in 09 months, reached \$5.651 bln

ISLAMABAD (APP): Food group exports from the country during the first nine months of the current financial year (2023-24) increased by 48.17 per cent as compared to the exports of the corresponding period of last year.

During the period from July-March, 2023-24, food commodities valued at \$5.651 billion were exported as against the exports of \$3.814 billion in the same period of the last year, according to the data released by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics.

During the period under review, rice exports increased by 83.37 per cent and over 4.550 million tons of rice worth \$2.930 billion were exported as compared to the exports of 2.939 million tons valued at \$1.598 billion in the same period of last year, it added.

Meanwhile, the exports of fruits grew by 17.34 per cent and vegetables by 42.79 per cent as 782,155 metric tons of fruits and 906,836 metric tons of vegetables valued at \$265.655 million.

CM KP directs to have special focus on addressing the issues of Polio refusal cases

PESHAWAR (APP): An important meeting of the Provincial Task Force (PTF) for Polio Eradication Initiative was held here at Chief Minister's House here on Friday with Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Gandapur in the chair. The authorities concerned briefed the chief minister about the various aspects of Polio Eradication Initiative with special focus on challenges faced in this regard, future course of action and other important matters. Important decisions were also made on the occasion to achieve the cent percent goals of polio eradication drives by improving the existing strategy and making this

whole effort more effective and result-oriented. Chief Secretary Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, IGP Akhtar Hayat Khan Gandapur, Additional Chief Secretary Home Muhammad Abid Majeed, Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Amjad Ali Khan, administrative secretaries of concerned departments, representatives of partner organizations and other relevant officials attended the meeting. Divisional and deputy commissioners also attended the meeting via video link. The chief minister on this occasion, directed the relevant quarters to further improve the coordination

mechanism amongst all the stakeholders in order to achieve the desired targets of polio eradication campaigns, and said that we can make these efforts successful only through an effective and better team work. He further directed them to have special focus on addressing the issues of refusal cases in addition to making operational affairs of polio eradication campaigns better. "We need to have targeted approach in order to convince the parents who are reluctant to administer anti polio drops to their children", he remarked and directed that Ulema-e-Kiram, Social mobilizers and elected public representatives be involved for this purpose.



FAISALABAD: Provincial Minister of Punjab for Food Bilal Yasin inspection for bread (Roti) at a Tandoor during visit and checking rate list and Roti weight, in the city.

817 held for selling roti at higher rate in 5 days, meeting told

LAHORE (APP): A meeting, chaired by Punjab Chief Secretary Zahid Akhtar Zaman at Civil Secretariat, was informed here on Friday that implementation of reduced price of roti was being ensured across Punjab on the orders of Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz. The meeting was told that 817 people had been arrested over violation of the orders, 347 cases registered and Rs. 11.7

million fine imposed collectively during the last five days. A report regarding the actions was presented during the meeting. The administrative secretaries of industries and food departments, Chairman PITB and officers concerned attended the meeting, while all divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners participated through video-link.

Tribal Clash claimed one more precious life of minor boy

Independent Report SHIKARPUR: The dirty game of Bloodshed under the umbrella of Tribal Clash could not be discouraged which resulted one more minor boy lost his life over Tribal Clash on Friday. According to initial reports reached here that one minor boy identified as Meer Hassan of 8 son of Ali Hassan Brohi was gunned down by their enemy groups men at village Sanaullah Brohi in the jurisdiction of Sultankot police station on Friday. The assailants managed good their escape after firing upon their rival enemy groups men. The dead body of deceased minor boy Meer Hassan was shifted to RHC Sultankot for Medico Legal formalities and later handed over to his heirs after conducting postmortem examination from there. The cause behind the incident was said to be an ongoing old Tribal dispute between Kakepotta and Brohi communities of the area, area police disclosed.



PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Haji Ghulam Ali witnessing the funeral prayer of the customs officers who were martyred in D.I Khan attack, at custom House.

Administrative machinery actively checking price, weight of roti/naan: Bilal

FAISALABAD (APP): Punjab Food Minister Bilal Yasin has said administrative machinery is active for checking price and weight of roti and naan across the province on special instructions of Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif. He was presiding over a meeting at the commissioner's office here on Friday. Commissioner Silwat Saeed, Deputy Commissioner Abdullah Nayar Sheikh and other officers were present. The minister said that measures were being taken on a daily basis to monitor the new rates of roti and naan, which had been fixed after consultation with relevant stakeholders including Anjuman-e-Tajran, Tandoor Hotels Associations and flour mills, etc. The government is not in favour of enforcing its decisions on any section forcefully, he said.

Market-based subjects being introduced in educational institutions: Minister

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Minister for Higher Education, Meena Khan Afridi has said that subjects that are compatible to need of modern era have been introduced in educational institutions. He was chairing a meeting that was convened to discuss problems being faced by girls' degree colleges. The meeting was also attended by Secretary Higher Education, Arshad Khan and principles of Bacha Khan Girls Degree College, City Girls Degree College, Hayatabad College and Frontier College for Women. On the occasion, the minister was briefed about problems of girls' colleges and shortage of staff in these institutions. Chairing the meeting, provincial minister said that necessary steps have been taken for promotion of girl education that is among top priorities of government.

Dr. Rauf Iftikhar's services for the ailing humanity are commendable: Baligh

Independent Report LAHORE: Kidney Transplant Surgeon, Dr. Brigadier (Rtd) Rauf Iftikhar Ahmed called on Governor Punjab Muhammad Balighur Rehman at Governor House Lahore. Director Vigilance Punjab Human Organ Transplantation Authority, Adnan Ahmed Bhatti was also present in the meeting. During the meeting, measures to improve the kidney transplant sector was discussed. Talking on this occasion, Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman said that Dr. Brigadier (ret'd) Rauf Iftikhar Ahmed's services for the ailing humanity are commendable. He said that he will also draw the attention of concerned authorities to give civil award to Dr. Brigadier (Rtd) Rauf Iftikhar Ahmed in recognition of his services. Kidney Transplant Surgeon Dr. Brigadier (Rtd) Rauf Iftikhar Ahmed informed the Governor Punjab about the performance in the field of Kidney Transplant. He said that he has done more than two and a half thousand successful kidney transplants in CMH Rawalpindi and other hospitals.



LAHORE: Kidney Transplant Surgeon Brigadier (ret'd) Rauf Iftikhar Ahmed meeting with Punjab Governor Muhammad Balighur Rehman.

Advisor asks tourists to avoid visiting Kaghan during current rains

Independent Report PESHAWAR: Zahid Chanzeb, Advisor to the Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tourism, Culture and Archeology, has expressed sorrow and concern over the damages caused by heavy rains in the province. He has advised the local administration and police to play an active role in helping out and guiding the travelers in the tourist areas and hill stations and urged the tourists to take full care of the SOPs. Zahid Chanzeb went on to visit the severely affected Kaghan Valley and Mansehra district to personally assess the situation caused by the prolong rains, where he along with the relevant authorities of local administration, Kaghan Development Authority and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Tourism Authority reviewed situation at highways and hotels at various places. He also assessed the arrangements for the tourists there. He issued an advisory for the tourists to refrain from visiting the Kaghan Valley and traveling along highways in the mountainous areas in general in view of the dangerous situation caused by the rains.

International News

Bombs rain on Rafah as US tries to 'prevent' all-out offensive

Monitoring Desk RAFAH: Birds sang and planes rumbled overhead as Abdeljabbar al-Arja dug the remains of his dead neighbours from the rubble in Gaza. An overnight Israeli strike hit the home where a displaced Palestinian family was sheltering in the southern city Rafah, relatives and neighbours told AFP as they scraped at the soil with their hands. "We retrieved the remains of children and women, finding arms and feet. They were all torn to pieces. This is horrifying, it's not normal," Al-Arja said, adding that at least 10 people were killed in the blast. Soon after the war began on October 7, Israel told Palestinians living in the north of Gaza to move to "safe zones" in the territory's south like Rafah. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has since vowed to invade the city, where around 1.5 million people live in shelters, more than half the territory's population. "How is Rafah a safe place?" said Zeyad Ayyad, a relative of the victims. In a separate strike on a house in Rafah's Al-Salam neighbourhood overnight on Tuesday, rescue crews recovered the corpses of eight family members including five children and two women, Gaza's civil defence service said. Meanwhile, senior US and Israeli officials held a virtual meeting on Thursday expected to include a discussion of both Israel's plans for the southern Gaza city of Rafah and its consideration of a retaliatory strike against Iran. President Joe Biden has urged Israel not to conduct a large-scale offensive in Rafah to avoid more Palestinian civilian casualties in Gaza, where Palestinian health authorities say more than 33,000 people have been killed in Israel's assault. At the United Nations, Secretary General Antonio Guterres painted a dark picture of the situation in the Middle East, warning that spiraling tensions over the war in Gaza and Iran's attack on Israel could devolve into a "full-scale regional conflict." Guterres also said Israel's military offensive in the Gaza Strip had created a "humanitarian hellscap" for civilians trapped in the besieged territory.



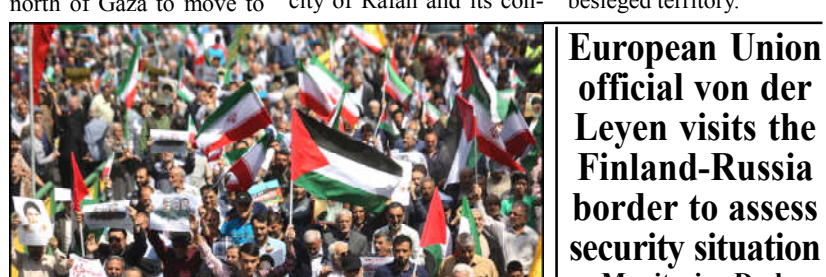
Palestinians attempt to salvage their belongings from the rubble of a damaged building in the city of Nuseirat, in central Gaza Strip.

Kenya mourns defence chief killed in helicopter crash

Monitoring Desk NAIROBI: Kenya began three days of mourning on Friday after its defence chief and nine other senior officers were killed in a helicopter crash, the latest military accident involving a high-profile figure. General Francis Omondi Ogolla, the Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces (CDF), was killed when his helicopter went down shortly after takeoff in a remote forested area of northwestern Kenya on Thursday. "A distinguished four-star general has fallen in the course of duty and service of the country," President William Ruto said as he announced the deaths that evening. He said the nation would observe three days of mourning from Friday, with the national flag flying at half-mast across the country and at Kenyan missions abroad. Ogolla's family announced that a funeral would be held on Sunday at his home in Siaya County in the west of the country, followed by a memorial service in a Nairobi suburb on April 26.

Tehran signals no retaliation against Israel after drones attack Iran

Monitoring Desk TEHRAN: Explosions echoed the Iranian city of Isfahan on Friday in what sources described as an Israeli attack, but Tehran played down the incident and indicated it had no plans for retaliation — a response that appeared gauged towards averting region-wide war. Israel had previously warned it would hit back after Iran fired hundreds of missiles and drones at Israel almost a week ago, in retaliation for a deadly strike — which Tehran blamed on its foe — that levelled Iran's consular annex at its embassy in Syria. While most of the Iranian strikes were intercepted, fears of a major regional spillover from Israel's Gaza offensive have since soared. The limited scale of the attack and Iran's muted response both appeared to signal a successful effort by worldwide diplomats who have been working round the clock to avert all-out war since the Iranian move last weekend. Iranian media and officials described a small number of explosions, which they said resulted from Israel's air defences hitting three drones over the city of Isfahan. Notably, they referred to the incident as an attack by "infiltrators", rather than by Israel, obviating the need for retaliation. A senior Iranian official told Reuters there were no plans to respond against Israel for the incident. "The foreign source of the incident has not been confirmed. We have not received any external attack, and the discussion leans more towards infiltration than attack," the official said.



Iranians attend an anti-Israel rally in Tehran, Iran.

US slaps sanctions on entities that raised funds for West Bank settlers

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: The United States on Friday imposed sanctions on two entities that it said helped raise tens of thousands of dollars for two violent extremists in the West Bank already targeted with US sanctions, the Treasury Department announced in a statement. Washington had previously sanctioned five settlers and two unauthorized outposts in the West Bank in two rounds of sanctions aimed at punishing ill-behaved Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinians envisage a future state. One entity, Mount Hebron Fund, launched an online fundraising campaign that raised \$140,000 for settler Yinnon Levi, Treasury said, after he was sanctioned on Feb 1 for leading a group of settlers that assaulted Palestinian and Bedouin civilians.

India begins voting in gigantic election as Modi seeks historic third term

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: India began voting on Friday in the world's largest election as Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks a historic third term in office on the back of growth, welfare, his personal popularity and Hindu nationalism. The vote pits Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) against an alliance of two dozen opposition parties which is challenging him with promises of increased affirmative action, more handouts and what they say is the need to save democratic institutions from Modi's dictatorial rule. The gigantic exercise involving almost one billion voters will be spread over seven phases across the world's most populous country at the peak of summer. It ends on June 1 and votes will be counted on June 4. On Friday, in the largest of the seven phases, 166 million voters in 102 constituencies across 21 states and territories will vote, including in Tamil Nadu in the south, Arunachal Pradesh on the Himalayan frontier with China

Pentagon chief Austin discusses Iran, Gaza aid with Israel's Gallant

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Thursday spoke with Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant to discuss Iran's actions in the Middle East, other regional threats and aid into Gaza, the Pentagon said in a statement. Austin discussed "the importance of increasing and sustaining" the flow of humanitarian aid to civilians in Gaza, including via a new route from Ashdod Port in Israel, the Pentagon said. Israel recently reopened the Erez crossing into northern Gaza and allowed the temporary use of Ashdod port in southern Israel after US President Joe Biden threatened to impose conditions on support for Israel unless it took steps to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Israel has faced growing international calls to do more to help civilians in Gaza, where nearly all of the 2.3 million population is displaced and enclave also suffers widespread hunger. The Israeli military said on Wednesday food trucks entered the blockaded Gaza Strip from Ashdod Port for the first time since the government approved the opening of the port to aid shipments. The Pentagon said Austin and Gallant discussed what it called "destabilizing actions" from Iran in the Middle East. Over the weekend, Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles in a retaliatory strike against a suspected Israeli strike on its embassy compound in Syria. Most of the drones and missiles were downed before reaching Israeli territory.

Matters related to Saudi investment of 9 billion dollars in Pakistan finally settled: FO

Pak "deeply disappointed" by UNSC dissensus on Palestine's full UN membership; regrets US veto

ISLAMABAD (Online): Foreign Office (FO) has said the visit of delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan remained positive and good.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad Friday FO Spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch said the matters related to Saudi investment of 9 billion dollars in Pakistan have been finally settled.

She held Pakistan played an active role on Palestine issue. Situation in Gaza and Palestine is very grave.

At the 'Saudi Arabia-Pakistan Investment Conference' co-chaired by the two Foreign Ministers, the two sides discussed investment proposals in diverse sectors such as energy, mining, agriculture, information technology,

construction, human resource development and exports. The investment conference was aimed at paving the way for Saudi investments in Pakistan. We will continue our constructive engagement with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to enhance our economic and strategic partnership.

The Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia discussed global and regional developments. There was unanimity of views on the increasing instability in the region. The two Foreign Ministers urged de-escalation and called for an immediate ceasefire, lifting of the siege of Gaza and access to unimpeded humanitarian aid for the besieged people of Gaza.

Pakistan is deeply disappointed at the result of

the last night's debate at the United Nations Security Council and its inability to reach consensus and recommend Palestine's membership of the UN to the General Assembly. We regret the U.S. decision to veto the draft resolution granting full membership of the UN to Palestine.

We believe the time has come for admission of Palestine to the United Nations. This will be a step towards correcting the historic injustice suffered by the Palestinian people for over 75 years. It will affirm their right to self-determination. The people of Palestine have an inherent right to live in a sovereign, independent and contiguous Palestinian State within the 4 June 1967 borders and with Al-Quds Al-Sharief as its capital.



ISLAMABAD: Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Federal Minister for Housing and Works attending the balloting ceremony of PHAF I-12/1 Apartments.

Govt would utilize all available resources for development of state, well-being of people: AJK PM

Independent Report
MIRPUR: Prime Minister Azad Kashmir Chaudhry Anwar ul Haq has said that the government would utilize all available resources for development of the state and well-being of its people.

Prime Minister Haq said this while addressing divisional development review meeting held here on Friday.

While reiterating his commitment to serve the people of the state with utmost sincerity, said that delaying tactics on the part of state machinery won't be tolerated.

For development and prosperity of the state, he

said, the state administration will have to work with a missionary spirit. He said that the state resources were solely meant for the development of the state and welfare of the masses.

"There is no shortage of funds in any sector", the PM said. He, however, said that proper utilization of funds and timely completion of projects was his first and foremost priority.

He said that all the development projects were being carefully reviewed. "Misuse of public funds, corruption or any kind of negligence will not be tolerated", he said, adding that those found guilty will have to face the consequence.

Directing local government officials to finalize all local government schemes by May 15, the PM made it clear that "No scheme will be approved after May 16".

He said that funds for all the ongoing projects of the Mirpur Division would be released in second week of May.

"All under-construction roads across the Mirpur division should be completed before June", the PM said. "The government has saved 21 billion rupees from various departments this year", he said.

He said that maintaining law and order in the state was the coalition government's top priority.

Pirzada says: Possession of PHAF I-12/1 apartments must be handed over to allottees at earliest

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Housing and Works, Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada here on Friday presided over the balloting ceremony for the Pakistan Housing Authority Foundation (PHAF) I-12/1 project. Amidst the event, 75 apartments, previously cancelled, were rebalotted under the Minister's supervision after fulfilling all procedural requirements. During the ceremony, the Minister underscored the urgency of promptly handing over possession of the I-12/1 project to its rightful allottees. Emphasizing on the timely completion of ongoing projects, he aimed to ensure the provision of

contemporary residential amenities to both federal government employees and the general public.

The Minister lauded Shahid Hussain, Managing Director of PHAF, for his commendable efforts in ensuring the timely execution of the project. In the occasion, Shahid Hussain informed the Minister about the recent success of a membership drive, which attracted approximately a hundred applicants, resulting in the successful balloting of 75 cancelled apartments. He informed that the I-12/1 project, initiated in 2016, encompasses 3200 D&E type apartments, with construction nearing completion at 90 percent.



ISLAMABAD: PM's Coordinator on Climate Change Romina Khurshid Alam holds meeting with Ms. Stoyanka, Cluster Coordinator, Energy and Climate Change Cluster, GIZ, Pakistan at her office.

Details of cases against Zain Qureshi: Interior secretary, other respondents put on notice

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) has issued notice to all respondents including interior secretary in the case regarding provision of details of the cases against Zain Qureshi, son of Shah Mehmood Qureshi and MNA besides seeking report within two weeks.

The court has summoned report from chief commissioner Islamabad, IG Islamabad, IGs of all the four provinces and FIA.

The court has issued this order on Friday.

The petition seeking details of the cases registered against son of PTI leader Shah Mehmood Qureshi and MNA Zain Qureshi came up for hearing before justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir Friday.

Syed Ali Bokhari

counsel for Zain Qureshi appeared in the case.

Justice Arbab Muhammad Tahir inquired there is objection on your petition how can this high court seek report from other provinces. How can we issue directives to other provinces from here.

Counsel Ali Bokhari replied report was sought from other provinces by this court in Umar Ayub case. The court inquired which bench had heard Umar Ayub case. Counsel for Zain Qureshi said chief justice had heard Umar Ayub case. The court remarked you should file the copy of that order. We summon the details. Justice Arbab Tahir remarked is it in your knowledge that any case is registered in other provinces.



ISLAMABAD: High Commissioner of Malaysia to Pakistan, Mohammad Azhar Mazlan and his wife Amelia Amani Lee Abdullah, is posing for a group photograph along with embassy staff and participants during Eid Milan Party at the embassy of Malaysia, in the Federal Capital.

Foreign tourists showing interest in Pakistan's cuisines

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani traditional cuisine plays a crucial role in promoting tourism, as both domestic and foreign tourists express a keen interest in consuming healthy foods.

Talking to APP, the Pakistan Tourism Development Corporation (PTDC) official said that along with the country's stunning landscapes such as high peaks, deserts, snow-clad valleys and beautiful scenery, Pakistani high-quality food attracts tourists from all over the world.

He emphasized the need to further market the cuisines through international tourism fairs aimed to introduce the country's foods to encourage foreign tourists to throng towards Pakistan besides showcasing its rich tourism poten-

tial. He said that Pakistani chefs are leveraging traditional food lovers by establishing hotels and restaurants worldwide, underscoring their contributions to the country's pride.

The official expressed happiness over the increasing number of women in the sector as it would create new employment opportunities for women. He further said that a woman has set up a food stall at Mohenjo-daro not only to serve the tourists with dignity but also to provide them with a decent source of earning. He said the present government was appreciating their contribution to the culinary landscape and tourism sector, anticipating a bright future for tourism in Pakistan if such dedication continues.

Islamabad to host LIIBS 7th edition on April 23, 24

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 7th Edition of Pakistan's biggest corporate event, Leaders in Islamabad Business Summit 2024 (LIIBS), will take place on April 23 & 24, 2024, at a local hotel under the theme of Collaborating for Growth.

The summit brings together a spectacular array of national and international speakers to deliberate on the challenges confronting the world and possible solutions, said a press release.

LIIBS provides a forum for consultative working, sharing of ideas and expertise, and for reiterating the need to work together to achieve common goals, in the best interest of regional and global economies.

The 7th Edition of LIIBS is jointly hosted by Nutshell Group and Unity Foods Limited, in collaboration with OICCI (Overseas Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry), with Faysal Bank Limited as the Platinum partner, and InfraZamin Pakistan as the strategic partner.



ISLAMABAD (APP): The National Emergency Operations Center for Polio Eradication on Friday apprised the donors on the progress of polio eradication efforts in the country. In this regard a brief-

ing was organized for the donors and partner organizations supporting the Pakistan Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI).

Coordinator to the Prime Minister on National Health Services Regulations and Coordination Dr Malik Mukhtar Ahmad Bharath was the chief guest, while Federal Health Secretary Nadeem Mahboob, country representatives of WHO and UNICEF, Trustee Rotary Foundation and Pakistan National Polio Plus Committee Chairman Aziz Memon, and representatives from donor agencies attended the briefing.

Dr Bharath said that Pakistan is committed to fulfilling its obligations under global public health and eradicating polio to make the dream of a polio-free world a reality.

Highlighting the Polio Programme's progress, he

"Yet we continue to detect cases, which means we still have a lot more work to do to ensure that every child is protected," he said. Dr Bharath said: "The strong commitment and dedication of our partner agencies and donors has been crucial in bringing us this close to polio eradication." "I hope that this support continues as Pakistan positions itself to interrupt poliovirus transmission this year."

Secretary Health Nadeem Mahboob said that the Health Ministry was providing full support to the Polio Programme as it endeavors to reach every child with the vaccine.

"I extend my profound gratitude to our donors and partner agencies for their commitment to the wellbeing of Pakistan's children and support for strengthening health systems," he said.

BISP embraces E-procurement: launches tender

ISLAMABAD (APP): In adherence to the "E-Pak Procurement Regulations, 2023" stipulated by the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA), Additional Secretary of the Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Dr Muhammad Tahir Noor, marked a significant milestone on Friday by initiating E-Procurements within the organization.

The inaugural tender, titled "Procurement of Enrollment Slips with QR Code Receipts", was officially launched through the E-Pak Acquisition and Disposal System (e-PADS) of PPRA here at the BISP Headquarters, said a news release.

QAU announces scholarships for KP students

ISLAMABAD (APP): Quaid-i-Azam University (QAU) Islamabad has announced Chief Minister Educational Endowment Fund Scholarship Programme 2023-24 for the students of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP). The applications are invited for the scholarships programme from the students of M.Phil/Ph.D admitted in Fall-2023 and Spring-2024 semester Department of Earth Sciences, Anthropology and Mathematics. According to the details, the students who are eligible for this programme i.e Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Domicile holders only, and fulfilling admission criteria.



ISLAMABAD: Special Assistant on Youth and Chairman Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt Program Rana Mashood Ahmad Khan addressing the opening ceremony of table tennis province league of Prime Minister Youth Talent Hunt.

Farewell ceremony held in honour of outgoing SSP

Independent Report
ISLAMABAD: A dignified farewell was held at the Central Police Office in honor of SSP Counter Terrorism Department (CTD)

and said that a good police officer is one who performs his duties with dignity and hard work and as a leader he is always at the front and leads his subordinates. He



congratulated SSP Yasir Afridi on his new appointment.

At the end of the ceremony, DIG Headquarters presented a police shield and bouquet to SSP Yasir Afridi on behalf of Islamabad Capital Police and wished him best of luck for his future endeavors. SSP Yasir Afridi served as AIG Special Branch and SSP CTD during his service in Islamabad Capital Police.

DIG Headquarters appreciated the service rendered by SSP Yasir Afridi

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Rehan Khan s/o Rustam Khan R/o Mohallah Ibrahim Nagar P/o Nara Dewal Manal Tehsil Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 270310/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (01-04-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 07-05-2024.

(sd/)

JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Afsar s/o Sikandar Khan R/o Sanjiala P/o Bodla Tehsil Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 356675/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (01-04-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 07-05-2024.

(sd/)

JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Malik Nawaz Yaqoob s/o Muhammad Yaqoob R/o Mohalla Farooq Azam Tehsil Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 794717/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (18-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-04-2024.

(sd/)

JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Manshehra Branch (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Rafique s/o Muhammad Maskeen R/o Maswal Tehsil & District Manshehra (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Manshehra Branch has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 260907/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (18-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-04-2024.

(sd/)

JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Dilawar Hussain s/o Jehandad Khan R/o Tanaki Longra P/o Muslimbad Tehsil Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 594574/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (01-04-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 07-05-2024.

(sd/)

JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Farzand Khan s/o Noor ur Rehman R/o Lakar Mandi P/o Havelian Rajoya Tehsil Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 941771/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (18-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-04-2024.

(sd/)

JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.

In Court of Abdul Baseer Judge Banking Court Hazara Division Abbottabad

ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad (Plaintiff)
Versus
(1) Muhammad Akhtar s/o Muhammad Afsar R/o Maira Bala Tehsil Havelian District Abbottabad (Defendant)

Whereas the ZTBL Havelian Branch Abbottabad has instituted a suit for the recovery of Rs. 697110/- etc due against you under Section-9 of Financial institutions (recovery of Finances) Ordinances, 2001 and dated (18-03-2024). You are hereby summoned to obtain leave to defend the suit within 30 days of the publication of this proclamation. In default where of the plaintiff will be entitled to a degree for the said sum and cost of suit cost to funds etc from the date of institution of suit till realization of entire amount.

Next date of hearing is 24-04-2024.

(sd/)

JUDGE
Banking Court Hazara Division, Abbottabad.