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Imran Khan ready to hold talks with military

Army should nominate representative for negotiations: ex-PM

Monitoring Desk

RAWALPINDI: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) imprisoned founder Imran Khan said Tuesday that his party was ready to hold talks with the military.

The PTI founder, who appeared in a court established in Adiala jail for a hearing, said: "We are ready to hold talks with the military. The army should nominate their representative [for negotiations]."

Khan, who has been imprisoned for nearly a year, said that his party had never levelled allegations against the army, but had only criticised the armed forces.

He further said that if any PTI worker was found guilty in the May 9, 2023,

riots then the authorities should penalise the individual.

Khan reiterated that the incumbent government wanted to destroy his party by creating a wedge between PTI party and the armed forces.

When asked why was he seeking talks when he was criticising the army and why wasn't he seeking talks with political parties, he said: "What is the SIFC? Who is Mohsin Naqvi? There is an undeclared martial law." Khan said that Interior Minister Naqvi was "their" representative and that he had reached "this place due to them".

He then alleged that he would never hold talks with Naqvi as he along with the

Punjab Inspector General (IG) "oppressed" his party.

In his statement, the PTI founder also termed Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz "fascist" while pointing towards back-to-back arrests of the party leadership across the province. The deposed prime minister, referring to his arrest last year, alleged that he was "abducted from judicial complex" and "it was declared legal by the Islamabad High Court (IHC) Chief Justice Aamer Farooq". He demanded the IHC CJ to recuse himself from his cases. Appealing to the judiciary, Khan said that his cases should be referred to any other high court judges except for Justice Farooq.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari meeting a delegation of Commonwealth, led by the Secretary-General of Commonwealth, Ms Patricia Scotland, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

President Zardari for stronger cooperation with CW

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari has emphasised the need for stronger cooperation with the Commonwealth in areas of climate change, education, parliamentary exchanges and disaster preparedness.

He called for enhanced interactions among parliamentary bodies, particularly young parliamentarians and students, to further strengthen and promote the bonds of friendship with Commonwealth member states.

The president expressed these views while talking to a delegation led by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, on Tuesday.

Welcoming the delegation, the president said that Pakistan, being the founding member of the Commonwealth, attached great importance to this organization for promoting cooperation among member states.

The meeting exchanged views on the consequences of climate change for Pakistan. The president said that Pakistan had suffered

a lot due to the impacts of climate change. He informed that over 2 million mangroves had been planted in Sindh to mitigate the impacts of climate change which had also earned \$ 27 million by trading carbon credits in the international market.

He also mentioned that the Sindh government had started constructing 2 million flood-resilient houses in the wake of the floods of 2022. Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said that Pakistan was facing huge challenges relating to Climate Change and was among the countries most vulnerable to its consequences.

She highlighted the Commonwealth's robust engagement with Pakistan and expressed her gratitude for Pakistan's continuous support for the work of the organization.

The president appreciated Secretary-General Patricia Scotland's climate advocacy for Pakistan in meeting the adverse impacts of climate change, especially in the aftermath of the climate-change-induced devastating floods in 2022.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadik Malik addressing a press conference.

Economic policies show results, inflation drops sharply: Musadik Malik

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Petroleum Dr. Musadik Malik on Tuesday announced that the government's economic policies were yielding positive results under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. He highlighted a significant reduction in food inflation from 48% to 2%, with ongoing efforts to further control price hikes and provide relief to the public.

During a press conference, Dr. Malik reported that overall inflation in the country has decreased from 38% to 12% due to the government's interventions. The inflation, he said, was gradually falling and that economic indicators

suggest the country was moving towards stability. Addressing key priorities, the minister noted that the government was focused on alleviating poverty, reducing inflation, and creating job opportunities for the youth.

Despite facing economic challenges, the government has allocated Rs 600 billion in the current federal budget to uplift the poor. This budget includes funds for the construction of dams, roads, and motorways, which were expected to generate job opportunities. Additionally, development projects were being prioritized in underdeveloped areas to benefit local communities.

Ex Lt-Col Akbar Hussain court martialled for incitement to revolt

ISPR says Hussain's rank of officer has been forfeited and he has been awarded 14 years of "rigorous imprisonment".

RAWALPINDI (INP): Lt-Col (retd) Akbar Hussain was court martialled on Tuesday for inciting military personnel to revolt and handed down 14 years in prison. According to the ISPR, the public relations department of Pakistan Army, Lt-Col Akbar was sentenced under the Field General Court Martial.

The Inter-Services Public Relations statement added that the former lieutenant colonel was tried by a court of competent jurisdiction. His rank has also been confiscated.

Earlier, Major @ Adil Farooq Raja and Captain @ Haider Raza Mehdi were also convicted and sentenced through Field General Court Martial (FGCM) under Pakistan Army Act, 1952 for the charges of inciting sedition among army personnel from discharge of duties and violation of the provisions of Official Secrets Act, 1923 related to espionage and acts prejudicial to the safety and interest of the State.

The court of competent jurisdiction had convicted and adjudged both Adil Farooq Raja and Haider Raza Mehdi on the date of 7th and 9th October 2023, through due judicial process, with the punishments awarded as 14 and 12 years of rigorous imprisonment respectively and forfeiture of rank of both individuals with effect from 21 November 2023.

Four killed, seven injured in road accident

CHAGHI (APP): Four persons on Tuesday were killed while seven others sustained injuries as a car overturned near checkpoint, Padak.

The levies forces shifted the bodies and injured to Basic Health Unit (BHU), Padak, the official source said. Serious injured were referred to DHQ, Nushki, he added.

The source said the dead persons included a woman and three children. The bodies were handed over to families after completing legal formalities.

Bugti participates in PC's meeting about Kachhi canal project: Rehabilitation of Kachhi canal necessary before formulation of strategy to cope with flood situation in future: Chief Minister

Federal Minister Planning assures water supply would be restored in Kachhi canal immediately before long term project of rehabilitation

Independent Report

QUETTA: The Chief Minister Balochistan, Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti has noted with concern that the agriculturalists are facing hardships due to non availability of water in Kachhi canal as such there is a need to restore water supply in the canal after desalting.

The Chief Minister insisted that there is a need to rehabilitate the Kachhi canal before formulation of the strategy to cope with the flood situation in future.

He said that that the planning for prevention of flood is a long process, as long as it is done, the supply of water should be started.

The Chief Minister also stressed that the long term planning is necessary but

immediate restoration of water is unavoidable.

He was speaking at the meeting of Planning Commission about the Kachhi canal project in which he participated through video link on Tuesday.

The Federal Minister for Planning and Development, Ahsan Iqbal presided over meeting of the Planning Commission. Besides the Chief Minister, the Provincial Ministers and other high ups also participated in the meeting through video link.

Expressing the views about Kachhi canal, the Chief Minister noted that the project of Kachhi canal has been lying pending, which otherwise had started in 2002. e said that the project was restarted in 2013.

The irrigation of around one lakh acres of land had

been started under Phase-1 of the project, he recalled adding that the 2022 flood caused damages to the Kachhi canal and then water supply was suspended from there.

This also resulted in suspension of the cultivation in the command area due to closure of canal, he maintained. He said that the people don't have the water for drinking and forcing the dwellers to migrate from the area.

While the Chief Minister strongly advocated the need to restore water supply in Kachhi canal in view of the hardships of the growers, the Federal Minister was agreed with the proposal of Chief Minister Bugti and assured that the water supply would be restored in Kachhi canal immediately.



QUETTA: A delegation led by Chairman Al-Hijra Trust Abdul Karim Saqib meeting with Governor Balochistan Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail

Attallah Tarar says PTI founder's call for talks with institution, another conspiracy against state

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attallah Tarar Tuesday said the call made by the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder for negotiation with the institution was nothing but another conspiracy against the country.

This is another attempt of the PTI founder to drag the state institutions in his "dirty politics", said the minister in a media talk outside the Parliament.

He wondered how the PTI founder quickly changed his own stance on the concept of the neutrality of the institutions. "It is not acceptable for him that the state institutions are neutral and now for his own political benefits, he wants them to be involved in the politics which is regrettable," he added.

The minister believed that the call for negotiation was made as the PTI founder preempted stern action against himself and his party after a raid on their social media cell

which was operating in connivance with the enemies of the state.

He said further investigation into the operation of the social media cell would expose their alleged relations and connection with the state's enemies who were involved in formulating anti-state policies. The minister said economic progress of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif also perturbed the PTI founder who had completely molded his harsh stance and tone.

"The PTI founder takes another U-turn today by suddenly requesting the institution to appoint a representative for talks," the minister said wondering how quickly he transitioned from his earlier stance of "I won't let go" to "Please talk to me."

Calling out him for his hypocrisy, Tarar said the PTI founder had resorted to the requests for talks after he realized that his shallow threats to the institutions would not work in any way.

BISP to impart technical training to women, youth in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) will impart technical training to youth and vulnerable women in Balochistan province for empowering them.

This was discussed during a meeting between Chairperson Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP), Rubina Khalid and Minister for Education and Technical Training, Balochistan, Raheela Hameed Khan Durrani.

The meeting was held to discuss this collaborative initiative aimed at empowering youth and vulnerable women through technical training.

The program aims at uplifting the lives of BISP beneficiaries through equipping them with the latest skills.

The meeting focused on leveraging the expertise of both departments to provide market-driven skills training, enhancing employability and economic opportunities for marginalized groups.



QUETTA: Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti, Provincial Ministers and officials participating in a meeting through video link chaired by Federal Minister for Planning Ahsan Iqbal about Kachhi canal

Bill prohibiting independent candidates from joining parties tabled in NA

Independents will not be considered political party members at a later stage if they didn't already submit declaration showing affiliation; The proposed amendment aims to alter Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act 2017

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): The National Assembly has introduced the Second Amendment Bill to the Elections Act 2024, prohibiting independent candidates from joining another political party after a specified period.

The session, chaired by Speaker Ayaz Sadiq, saw PML-N member Bilal Kayani present the bill. The proposed amendment aims to alter Sections 66 and 104 of the Elections Act 2017, restricting independent candidates from joining political parties after a constitutionally and legally defined period.

The bill suggests that independent candidates should not be allowed to join any political party

within the stipulated timeframe. It also states that parties failing to submit a list of reserved seats within the specified period will not be eligible for those seats.

The bill further states that candidates who do not submit an affidavit of party affiliation to the returning officer will be considered independent. Candidates declaring party affiliation post-election will not be recognised as candidates of that party, and the second amendment to the Elections Act 2017 will be enforced retroactively.

The law minister recommended the bill be referred to the standing committee, which Speaker Sadiq subsequently did, instructing the committee

chairman to convene a meeting the following day. Additionally, the Pakistan National Excellence Institute Bill 2024 was passed during the session. Amjad Ali Khan of the Sunni Ittehad Council presented a bill to criminalise enforced disappearances, which was also referred to the standing committee.

Further, the West Pakistan Maintenance of Public Order Amendment Bill 2024 was presented by Sahibzada Sibghatullah and referred to the relevant committee by the speaker. Agha Rafiqullah introduced the Federal Employees Benevolent Fund and Group Insurance Amendment Bill 2024, which was sent to the standing committee.

Masoud Pezeshkian sworn in as Iran's ninth president

TEHRAN (INP): Iranian reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian was sworn before parliament on Tuesday as the Islamic republic's ninth president at a ceremony attended by foreign dignitaries.

Pezeshkian won a runoff race against ultraconservative Saeed Jalili on July 5 to replace president Ebrahim Raisi who died in a helicopter crash in May.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Isahq Dar visited Tehran on Tuesday to attend the investiture ceremony of Iran, Dr. Masoud Pezeshkian. On behalf of the people and Government of Pakistan, the DPM conveyed a message of felicitations and best wishes for President Pezeshkian on his assumption of office. He congratulated the Iranian nation on the successful and smooth transitioning of power.



QUETTA: Member Balochistan National Commission Shaina Khan and Member Sindh National Commission Bholal Sitani meeting with Deputy Commissioner Balochistan Assembly Ghazala Gola

GM PIA Balochistan meets Governor: Quetta-Saudi Arabia direct Umra flights to start from August 6

Independent Report

QUETTA: All is set to operate the direct Umrah flights from Quetta to Saudi Arabia from August 6, 2024. The Governor Balochistan, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail is scheduled to inaugurate the Quetta-Saudi Arabia direct flights.

In this regard, the General Manager PIA Balochistan, Abdul Ghaffar Miankhail met the Governor, Sheikh Jaffar Khan Mandokhail along with the PIA team here at the Governor House on Tuesday.

by the GM PIA with the Governor Balochistan.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor said that provision of facility of travelling to Saudi Arabia from Quetta is welcoming initiative.

He particularly thanked the Prime Minister Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif for ensuring air travelling facilities to the people of Balochistan.

He said that the flight operation of PIA would be ensured from Quetta on the daily basis. Besides, the facilities of ATM, first medical aid and foreign currency exchange would also be ensured for the passengers at Quetta airport.



QUETTA: Chief Secretary Balochistan Shakeel Qadir Khan presiding over meeting Executive Committee of Balochistan Civil Service Academy

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

Summer of protests

Pakistan is seeing some seismic disruptions in its social order. Recent developments in Balochistan, KP and Islamabad depict a society in flux, one which is facing severe, intense internal pressures due to tensions between the state and its people. All three areas have recently witnessed significant turmoil, and, in each case, those making decisions at the top have appeared out of their depth when dealing with the troubles. As a result, the country's challenges, instead of being contained, now seem to be expanding.

Consider the ongoing unrest in Balochistan. When Mahrang Baloch had marched to Islamabad last winter to peacefully demand the whereabouts of missing persons, she was met with scorn and treated in the crudest way possible. The Baloch people, from all walks of life, have now rallied around her, and the state is finding it difficult to cope with the outpouring of sympathy for her cause. Out of desperation, it is responding with even more violence, thereby stoking anger in the province to precarious levels.

Then consider Bannu, which recently saw an uprising due to the federal government's failure to separate national security from politics. The locals and the armed forces, who both want the land rid of militancy, found themselves facing off instead due to the erosion of trust between them. Violence and unnecessary bloodshed followed, which have added to the pre-existing tensions between KP and the centre. Much damage had already been done by the time it was clarified that the people of Bannu need not fear any large-scale military operation. One wonders if matters would have unfolded differently if the federal government had heeded multiple calls to take the provincial political leadership into confidence.

Then there is Islamabad, where the state has taken several contradictory positions in recent days. Days before the JI protest, an important artery in the federal capital was recently seized by the TLP, and its sudden decision to protest the war in Palestine was entertained till matters were settled with talks. Apparently not satisfied with the nuisance it had caused, the party then issued a death warrant for the chief justice. Though condemnations have been issued and a case registered, it is evident that the state's 'soft touch' in dealing with the TLP has emboldened it enough that it feels it can cross unthinkable lines.

On the other hand, the campaign to suppress the PTI continues apace, even though the party has repeatedly asserted that it only wants to protest peacefully. This endorsement of double standards for 'favoured' and 'disfavoured' social groups is antagonistic and may provoke more people to take extreme positions. From Gwadar to Islamabad, there is a need to urgently rethink the policies that have been chosen. Instead of solving problems, they are catalysing societal breakdown.

Cycle of recidivism

Rida Tahir

The current approach in the country of incarcerating individuals for minor offences leads to a cascade of negative effects. This includes overcrowded prisons and the cycle of recidivism, where individuals become trapped in the criminal justice system. In each province, the number of under-trial prisoners exceeds the number of convicted inmates. Prisons across Pakistan have an overcrowding rate of 152.2 per cent, with some jails operating over 200pc of their capacity. As of 2023, Pakistan holds 100,366 prisoners in its 127 jails, according to data released by Justice Project Pakistan.

This highlights the shortcomings in Pakistan's probation and parole systems, excessive dependence on imprisonment, and the urgent need to reform laws and policies regarding incarceration.

The solution to reducing crime does not lie in building more prisons to imprison more people, but rather in reforming offenders so that they can reintegrate as productive members of society.

Exposure to the jail environment increases the likelihood of future criminal behaviour (recidivism). It disproportionately affects first-time offenders, as it leads to loss of income, which disrupts families and communities.

At the societal level, it imposes costs on taxpayers for housing and caring for individuals who may not pose a significant threat to public safety. It also contributes towards an overburdened criminal justice system. This can strain law-enforcement resources and congest court dockets, which diverts attention from more serious crimes.

Probation and parole serve the purpose of

community rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. Therefore, as an alternative to imprisonment, the probation and parole system can play a vital role in community rehabilitation of offenders, ending the cycle of recidivism and reducing the prison population.

The primary distinctions between these two non-custodial sanctions lie in their administration: probation is judicially granted, whereas parole is authorised by the executive. Additionally, probation involves the suspension of a sentence along with community service (such as roadside clean-up), whereas parole is usually granted towards the end of a prisoner's mandatory imprisonment period, based on the good conduct of the prisoner.

The UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (Tokyo Rules) were formulated to provide a set of basic principles to promote the use of non-custodial measures. Rule 1.5 of the Tokyo Rules encourage states to "develop non-custodial measures... taking into account the observance of human rights, the requirements of social justice and the rehabilitation needs of the offender".

After Pakistan's independence in 1947, probation and parole are governed by the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1960, the Good Conduct Prisoners Probationary Release Act, 1926, and the Good Conduct Prisoners Probationary Release Act, 1927. Unfortunately, these laws are based on colonial-era practice and a retributive model, lacking adequate rehabilitative mechanisms.

Punjab and KP reformed the laws related to probation and parole through the Punjab Probation and Parole Services Act, 2019, and the KP Probation and Parole

Act, 2021, respectively. These laws shift towards rehabilitative and restorative justice. In Sindh, the Good Conduct Prisoners Probationary Release Act, 1926, is still applicable. However, the Home Department has proposed reforms in the shape of the Sindh Good Conduct Prisoners Probationary Rules, 2024. Under Rule 6, a 'Parole Committee' has been proposed which includes the Sindh Human Rights Commission, an independent sub-national human rights institution with the mandate to monitor human rights violations. This is a step in the right direction.

Further, the Juvenile Justice System Act, 2018, provides the legal framework related to probation and parole of children in conflict with the law. However, only KP has formulated the rules under JJS. The rest of the provinces and Islamabad Capital Territory must formulate the rules to protect the best interests of children in conflict with the law.

The Supreme Court in the Raja Azmat case stated that: "It is a right of every eligible prisoner to be considered for the purposes of enjoying liberty on the basis of probation." The court directed the federal and provincial governments to ensure that laws relating to the release of a prisoner based on probation are implemented and made functional.

Therefore, the state must strengthen the Directorate of Reclamation & Probation by appointing capable probation and parole officers. Further, technology such as electronic monitoring and GPS tracking can be utilised to improve supervision, efficiency and effectiveness. Pakistan must adopt an efficient probation and parole system to end the cycle of recidivism. -- Courtesy Dawn

Misplaced urgency

Mohsin Fareed

The next time you are travelling, sitting in your office, walking in a park, roaming in a shopping mall or just hanging out with friends or family, look around you. You will notice folks anxiously scrolling down their mobile phone screens, to catch up with the latest messages, calls, feeds or status updates.

Living in an increasingly fast-paced, interconnected world, which demands urgency at every step, the compulsion to constantly accomplish and advance can be overwhelming. From work-related issues to social media notifications, there is a general perception of urgency in our lives. This urgent way of life obfuscates the line between the actually important and seemingly important tasks.

At work, this involves dealing with last-minute queries, odd deadlines, insane workloads, and the idea that one must be accessible even after office hours. In personal life, this phenomenon translates into overstrained relationships, frequently checking social media updates, and immediately responding to calls and texts.

This 'always on' culture requires multitasking. However, our brain lacks the neurocognitive build-up to perform multiple tasks simultaneously.

So, it slows down, reducing productivity by about 40 per cent every time we try to multitask. Besides, the attraction for distraction drives most multitasking can be hard to shut down, thus making it difficult to focus even if we are not doing so. Meanwhile, our dopamine system is de-sensitised by continuous overstimulation. The

more overstimulated we are, the less joy we feel. Our brain is exhausted by the repeated desire to process information and make quick decisions. Engaging in an assignment that calls for thought requires a distraction-free environment.

A false state of urgency dupes the body into adopting a 'fight or flight' response. Our breathing becomes faster, our heart rate and blood pressure go up, and we lose the ability to regulate our emotions. This erratic response might lead to hypertension, hormonal imbalance, sleep deprivation and immune disorders. Thus, the culture of urgency can be deleterious to our physical well-being in the long run.

Digital content captures not just our gaze, but also our attention. Since its inception, technology has been a guileful friend, well-versed in pilfering our mindfulness. This 'original sin' of technology reflects the evolution of our interaction with the tools we create and use every day. Today, we have an abundance of online friends, and strive to make even more by liking or sharing content, but we are unaware of what is going on among our close family and friends' circles, even if they're living in the same house or neighbourhood.

Social comparison theory explains the urgency phenomenon that describes the urge to constantly feel pressured to accomplish tasks quickly. In our false perception of others achieving more or outpacing us, we feel compelled to keep up with them, culminating in an endless cycle of haste and stress. The lines between our work and leisure are blurred by our dependency on

social media, making it challenging to disconnect and engage meaningfully with others. Ironically, this constant connectivity can erode our sense of belonging and contribute to feelings of loneliness and alienation.

Our transition from press to radio to television has taken another step and reached the digital era, where the focus of attention is human attention itself. Over time, each iteration of technology, social media, tablets or smartphones is becoming more and more efficient at capturing our focus. But it is not just our attention which is at stake anymore. With the advent of artificial intelligence, the concept of attention itself has been bifurcated. On the one hand, human attention is frail and finite. On the other hand, the attention of AI has become vast and refines itself progressively.

The realm of attention has gone beyond the human spirit into the battlefield of cerebral computing.

AI is a double-edged sword, both emancipator and conspirator. It can liberate us from overburden, but can also embroil us further. AI has created a delicate rhythm between the creator and the created. It is important to establish clear boundaries including digital ones to avoid the sense of false urgency that is resulting from excessive assumptions and multitasking. We can become more pragmatic about what is possible to achieve over a day, a week, a year or even a lifespan by acknowledging the limits of our time, strength and attention. The key component is spending time on what is important rather than on what is urgent. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Digital push in Pakistan's agriculture sector takes off

ISLAMABAD (APP): United Nations Food and Agriculture (FAO), here on Tuesday marked the official launch of the Digital Agriculture Consortium (DAC), a pivotal step in transforming Pakistan's agriculture through digital means.

The event, part of the PDAC project "Technical Support for the Establishment of Pakistan Digital Agriculture Consortium," was backed by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR).

It brought together a wide range of participants, including digital agriculture companies, mechanization service providers, digital service providers, financial representatives, policymakers, and development partners. Government bodies such as the Ministry of Information Technology & Telecommunication and Land Information & Management System also attended. The event showcased various digital agriculture products and services, giving attendees a hands-on look at the latest advancements, from precision agriculture tools to smart farming technologies.

The event covered key areas like digital track and traceability systems and land information management, demonstrating how these technologies can improve agricultural productivity and efficiency.

Panel discussions featured industry experts and thought leaders discussing topics like bridging gaps in ag-tech solutions and post-harvest success.

The DAC also began enrolling stakeholders into the consortium, aiming to integrate key players from government, private sector, academic institutions, and agri-tech companies into a unified platform. This broad coalition is committed to advancing digital agriculture across Pakistan. The primary goal of the DAC launch was to highlight the consortium.



QUETTA: Chief Manager State Bank of Pakistan, Quetta Sarfraz Ahmed Nadeem meeting with Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Ahmed Bugti.



LARKANA: Farmers pour dates into a large pot for boiling after harvesting, right in their field on outskirts area in the city.

SMBR reviews audit report, BoR reforms

LAHORE (APP): Senior Member Board of Revenue (SMBR) Nabil Javed on Tuesday chaired an important meeting in the committee room in which establishment of revenue academy, audit report, powers of DCs and ADCRs, vacancies of revenue officers, KPIs, Board of Revenue (BoR) reforms were reviewed.

Member Taxes Secretary BoR Shafiqullah Mushtaq, Director Operations PLRA Anjum Zahra, PLRA officials participated while commissioner Sahiwal and DG PLRA were also present. Secretary BoR Shafiqullah Mushtaq briefed the SMBR about new recruitments of revenue officers. He briefed that

PPSC would conduct exams soon for vacant posts. In the meeting, promotion of Naib Tehsildar Godawars and Patwaris was also reviewed while details were also sought from all divisions to complete the promotion cases as soon as possible. The SMBR reviewed the establishment of BoR Academy and training of revenue officers in detail. He issued instructions for the immediate appointment of new principal of Revenue Academy. Nabil Javed said that the performance of the academy would be improved for the training of the revenue officials and to harmonise with the modern requirements, adding restructuring of academy as per modern requirements would be ensured.

PSX turns bearish, loses 198 points

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 100-index of the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) witnessed bearish trend on Tuesday, losing 198.94 points, a negative change of 0.25 percent, closing at 78,628.81 points against 78,827.74 points on the last working day.

A total of 313,085,457 shares were traded during the day as compared to 371,087,020 shares the previous day, whereas the price of shares stood at Rs 17.615 billion against Rs 19.156 billion on the last trading day.

As many as 447 companies transacted their shares in the stock market, 152 of them recorded gains and 239 sustained losses, whereas the share price of 56 companies remained unchanged. The three top trading companies were The Organic Meat with 24,830,333 shares at Rs 40.47 per share, The Searle Company with 24,067,099 shares at Rs 60.31 per share and Fauji Cement with 15,819,905 shares at Rs 21.63 per share.

Rafhan Maize Products Company Limited witnessed a maximum increase of Rs 77.44 per share price, closing at Rs 7,590.00.

Ambassador Hashmi visits Shanghai, eyeing Chinese investments in key sectors

BEIJING (APP): Pakistan Ambassador to China Khalil Hashmi on Tuesday said the Yangtze River Delta, a thriving economic engine and manufacturing powerhouse in China, is emerging as a hub for potential collaboration between Pakistan and China in areas such as electric vehicles, new energy materials, and semiconductors.

The ambassador's itinerary underscored Pakistan's efforts to foster deeper economic ties and explore avenues for investment and cooperation.

Agriculture minister chairs meeting to review progress of ongoing development schemes

LAHORE (APP): Minister for Agriculture & Livestock, Punjab Syed Ashiq Hussain Kimmani Tuesday chaired a high level meeting at Agriculture House, Lahore in which the progress of ongoing schemes related to agricultural development was reviewed.

In the meeting, the timelines of the 'Transforming Punjab Agriculture Programme' were also reviewed.

The minister said that a new era of agricultural development would begin in

NEPRA Asaan approach mobile application to be launched today

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) is going to launch a mobile application called "NEPRA Asaan Approach" designed for electricity consumers in Pakistan, on Wednesday. This app will enable users to register complaints related to electricity issues such as power outages & fluctuations, electrical fires, line faults, and billing discrepancies etc in the minimum possible time, said a press release issued here Tuesday.

Rupee sheds 15 paise against dollar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistani rupee on Tuesday depreciated by 15 paise against the US dollar in the interbank trading and closed at Rs 278.65 against the previous day's closing of Rs 278.50. However, according to the Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market stood at Rs 278.5 and Rs 280.06 respectively. The price of Euro came down by 35 paise to close at Rs 301.57 against the last day's closing of Rs 301.92, according to the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP).

Rana Tanveer calls for technology adoption to boost agri productivity

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Industries, Production and National Food Security Rana Tanveer Hussain on Tuesday emphasized the need for modernization and technology adoption in the agriculture sector to boost productivity, reduce costs, and increase exports.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Change of Agriculture of Pakistan", the minister said that the traditional farming practices were unsustainable and inefficient. He said that technologies like ICT, IoT, mobile applications, GPS/GIS, and UAVs are playing a significant role in transforming traditional farming practices.

Textile Asia Intl Exhibition and Conferences 2024 to start from Aug 3

LAHORE (APP): The Pakistan China Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry collaborated with E-commerce Gateway Pakistan (Pvt.) Limited as a strategic partner for organizing a three-day joint exhibition "Textile Asia International Exhibition" here at the Lahore Expo Centre from August 3 to 5, 2024.

Addressing a review meeting held at PCJCCI on Tuesday, Dr. Khurshed Nizam, President and Vice President, M. Uzair Nizam, E-Commerce Gateway Pakistan, said that the exhibition will bring together industry leaders, innovators, and enthusiasts from over 11 countries, with over 550 companies with both local and foreign participations. It would also lead the way in delivering the most exquisite opportunities for all participants in different sectors.

