

Independent

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Vol. XIV No. 155 Reg. mails-B/ID-445 Saturday July 06, 2024, Zil Hajj 29, 1445 A.H. Ph: 2158688, 2158997 Pages 4: Rs. 12

COAS chairs 265th Corps Commanders' Conference Military leadership rejects unwarranted criticism on Operation Azm-e-Istehkam

Operation aimed at harnessing counter-terrorism efforts for enduring economic prosperity, says ISPR

RAWALPINDI (APP): The Corps Commanders' Conference has reiterated to continue full support of ongoing efforts in uplifting the socioeconomic growth and wholeheartedly assisting the government in curbing all illegal activities which hamper investors' confidence, economic stability and growth.

Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir presided over 265th Corps Commanders' Conference in Rawalpindi today.

The forum paid rich tribute to the supreme sacrifices of Shuhadas of the Armed Forces, Law Enforcement Agencies and the

citizens who have laid their lives for peace and stability in the country.

The forum undertook a comprehensive review of internal and external security situation of the country and had detailed discussion on various aspects of Azm-e-Istehkam, which is aimed at harnessing the national counter terrorism efforts in a synchronized manner to dismantle the nexus of terrorism and illegal spectrum in the country for enduring stability and economic prosperity.

It was noted with concern the unwarranted criticism by some quarters and deliberate misrepresenta-

tion of the vision, only for furthering their vested interests.

The forum also deliberated upon regional security situation, especially Afghanistan and reaffirmed its commitment to regional peace and security.

It expressed solidarity with the people of Kashmir and Palestine. Forum condemned serious human rights violations, war crimes and genocide being perpetrated in Kashmir and Gaza.

The forum affirmed that military leadership is cognizant of the full spectrum of the challenges and resolved to

shoulder its constitutionally mandated responsibilities with support of the resilient people of Pakistan.

It underscored that onslaught of politically motivated digital terrorism, unleashed by conspirators, duly abetted by their foreign cohorts against state institutions is meant to induce dependency in the nation and sow discord through peddling of blatant lies, fake news and propaganda.

However, the Armed Forces along with the nation are fully aware of all such machinations and

stand united and committed in defeating the notorious designs of the enemies of Pakistan.

Expressing full satisfaction on Army's commitment to national security, the COAS stressed upon maintaining high standards of professionalism and operational preparedness.

To conclude, the COAS remarked that Pakistan Army has always been fully prepared to thwart all internal and external challenges and play its due role in the stability and prosperity of Pakistan, regardless of the challenges posed.



RAWALPINDI: Chief of Army Staff General Syed Asim Munir presiding over 265th Corps Commanders' Conference

Cabinet body approves 6 months' extension in Refinery Policy 2023

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Cabinet Committee on Energy, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Friday, approved the extension of six months in the Refinery Policy 2023 regarding the upgradation of the existing refineries.

The committee directed the Ministry of Petroleum to take into confidence the oil refineries established in the country and prepare a comprehensive plan for their upgradation on a priority basis.

The committee was also presented with a detailed report on the circular debt of the power sector from July 2023 to May 2024.

The report stated that the volume of the power sector's circular debt was Rs 2,655 billion till May 2024.

The committee also approved the Standardized Security Package Document under the Power Policy 2015 for small water projects of the private sector.

This initiative is aimed at promoting private investment in the electricity sector and quickly resolving the tariff and other issues. The prime minister decided to resolve complaints regarding the electricity supply of the people of Gilgit-Baltistan.

He constituted a committee to prepare a plan of action to ensure the uninterrupted supply of elec-

tricity in Gilgit Baltistan.

The committee also approved setting up a support unit with two-year tenure to increase the efficiency of electricity distribution companies, prevent electricity theft and timely collection of bills.

After the Federal Cabinet's approval, the first support unit would be established for the Multan Electric Power Company (MEPCO). The committee also approved an incentive package for recovery of unpaid and overdue electricity bills.

Under the package, rewards would be given to the personnel of law enforcement agencies and officials of DISCOs for the recovery of unpaid and overdue electricity bills.



Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a meeting of Cabinet Committee on Energy in Islamabad.

PM's visit to Central Asian states achieves a major milestone: Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information, Broadcasting, Culture and National Heritage Attaullah Tarar Friday said that the government had achieved a milestone with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's recent official visit to Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, especially on diplomatic and economic fronts.

"Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his delegation received a splendid reception during his visits to the Central Asian states," the minister said while addressing a news conference.

The Pakistani ports were the mainstay of the discussions of the prime minister with the top officials of the Central Asian states that were landlocked countries and had a keen interest in increasing partnership with Pakistan, he said.

The land and railway

routes also came under discussion to promote bilateral trade between them, he added.

For giving a boost to Pakistan's bilateral trade with the two Central Asian states, the provision of facilities to the business community was also discussed during the meetings, he noted. Tarar said PM Shehbaz Sharif's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Kazakhstan was held in a welcoming and friendly environment.

With President Putin, he said, the discussion encompassed promoting cooperation and partnership between the two countries' diverse economic sectors including agriculture, mining, petrochemicals and others.

President, PM greet Keir Starmer on victory in UK election

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Friday felicitated Sir Keir Starmer on his landslide victory in the parliamentary election in the United Kingdom.

The president wrote on his X timeline that Pakistan looked forward to working with the new UK government to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

President Zardari expressed the hope that Keir Starmer would play his role in addressing the shared challenges faced by the world.

Meanwhile Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif congratulated Labour Party leader Keir Starmer on his victory in the parliamentary election in the United Kingdom.

The prime minister, in a post on his X account, said he looked forward to working closely with the new UK government.

"Looking forward to working closely with the new UK government, under Sir Starmer's wise and able leadership, to further strengthen and broaden the Pakistan-UK partnership," he said.

Imran nods PTI's participation in APC

RAWALPINDI (INP): Former premier Imran Khan said on Friday that his party would attend the All Parties Conference (APC) convened by PM Shehbaz Sharif.

The PTI founder announced this decision while talking to the reporters inside Adiala Jail. He stated that his party would listen to the government's stance on the Operation Azm-e-Istehkam, adding that the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) had reservations on it as it would foment chaos in country.

Recognising the exigency of the security situation, Khan said that the Tehreek-Taliban-Pakistan (TTP) couldn't be vanquished without improving relations with Afghanistan.

Naqvi takes decisions to transform Islamabad into a World-Class City

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior, Mohsin Naqvi has made key decisions to transform Islamabad into a world-class city while chairing an important meeting at the Capital Development Authority (CDA) headquarters on Friday.

On the Minister's directives, CDA will now only purchase electric motorbikes in future to reduce environmental pollution. Additionally, eco-friendly electric buses will be introduced for the citizens of Islamabad.

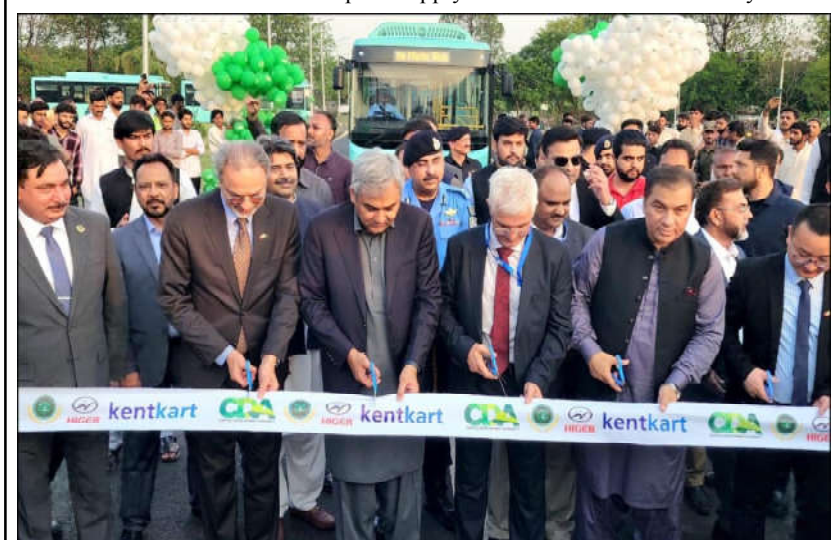
The Interior Minister has also imposed a ban on the purchase of conventional motorcycles.

International standard emergency services will be provided to the citizens of Islamabad and the administration of emergency ser-

vices will be transferred from MCI to CDA.

Moreover, the establishment of Capital Waste Management Company will also be expedited. Furthermore, the matters related to the establishment of Capital Waste Management Company will also be finalized soon.

The Interior Minister said that work on the Serena Chowk Underpass and F-9 Park Chowk Flyover projects will begin soon to alleviate traffic congestion issues in Islamabad. He added that the long-delayed Expressway project will be completed on a priority basis. He stated that developmental work in the non-developed sectors of Islamabad will also be completed, and possession will be handed over to the allottees.



Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi cutting ribbon during the launch ceremony of the first ever Environment Friendly E-Buses in Islamabad

Asif welcomes PTI's decision to join APC

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday welcomed the decision of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) to join the All Parties Conference (APC).

Speaking to a private news channel, he noted that the government had extended invitations to PTI for talks in the past, and this offer remains open.

PPP to present its stance in APC on combating terror in country, says Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Independent Report
QUETTA: The Chairman Pakistan Peoples' Party (PPP) Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had stated that People's Party delegation will participate in the APC, presenting their stance in the All Parties Conference (APC).

was on two-day visit to Balochistan wherein he was briefed about the pace of ongoing uplift schemes, proposed development projects for Balochistan.

He also held detailed deliberations with the provincial leadership and



LAHORE: Activists of Pakistan Central Muslim League hold a protest against inflation in Pakistan, outside press club in the Provincial Capital.

Mariyum announces major campaign to combat smog

LAHORE (APP): Senior Provincial Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb has announced a major campaign in Punjab aimed at combating smog, protecting human health, and addressing pollution.

While chairing the Multi-Sectoral Anti-Smog Action Plan review meeting here on Friday, she said that under this initiative, a crackdown has been initiated on industries, factories, and vehicular emissions.

The senior minister stated that penalties will be imposed for burning residue and crops, and government machinery across the province has been put on high alert. Monitoring plans for pollutants and toxic substances in the air have been prepared for each

sector, with a master plan for the implementation of directives from the Chief Minister's Office. Police, district administrations, environmental protection agencies, and the finance department, among other relevant bodies, will actively participate in the anti-smog campaign, she said.

Mariyum Aurangzeb also highlighted the commencement of inspections for vehicles emitting excessive smoke due to faulty engines, alongside the launch of a comprehensive fitness and testing program. Initially, the testing program will focus on vehicles, trucks, and highways in Lahore. After the deadline, permits for vehicles and trucks found violating the law will be revoked, she added.

SC to hear appeal against restoration of Hafiz's CNIC

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court of Pakistan would take up the appeal on July 10, filed by National Database Regulatory Authority (NADRA) against restoration of CNIC of Jamiat Ulema e Islam (JUI-F)'s leader Hafiz Hamdullah.

A two-member bench, led by Justice Munib Akhtar, would hear the case on the fixed date. The registrar office has issued the case list in this regard.

It may be mentioned that the Islamabad High Court (IHC) had dismissed the decision of NADRA and ordered to restore the CNIC of Hafiz Hamdullah.

Two killed, 5 injured in Mardan blast

MARDAN (APP): Two persons were killed and five others sustained injuries in a bomb blast near Jalala Bridge in the Takht Bhai tehsil of Mardan on Friday.

District Police Officer (DPO), Zahoob Babar Afridi told the media that two people were killed and five others injured, including a police officer, woman and child.

He said that the explosion ripped through immediately after a police vehicle passed over the bridge, in an attempt to target the police.

According to Rescue 1122, ambulances and medical teams promptly arrived at the scene and shifted the deceased and injured to local hospitals.

ATC cancels arrest warrants of KP CM

ISLAMABAD (Online): Anti Terrorism Court (ATC) Islamabad has cancelled arrest warrants of KP Chief Minister (CM) Ali Amin Gandapur for not appearing in the court due to his official engagements.

The petition seeking suspension of arrest warrants of Ali Amin Gandapur CM KP issued in respect of a case registered against him in police station I-9 came up for hearing in ATC Islamabad Friday.

Ali Amin Gandapur while surrendering before court said he could not appear in the court due to official engagements.

During the hearing of the case KP CM requested the court to cancel the arrest warrants.

The court accepted Ali Amin Gandapur plea in connection with cancellation of his arrest warrants.



called by Prime Minister for establishing peace in the country and Operation (Azm-e-Istehkam).

"PPP is in favour of reaching a consensus on all matters pertaining to the country, including fighting terrorism, since we have our own policy and a strong commitment to eliminating terrorism from the country.

The APC will provide an opportunity for all political parties to express their opinions," he said while addressing a press conference at CM Secretariat, Quetta on Friday.

The Chief Minister Balochistan Mir Sarfaraz Bugti, PPP Balochistan President Changez Jamali, PPP MNA Ejaz Jhokrani, provincial ministers and other party leaders were accompanied by the PPP Chairman.

Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

workers of the party. The PPP Chairman while addressing news conference emphasized the need for developing consensus on the national issues terming it crucial for continuity of the democratic process and stability of the country.

"Though, we had some reservations on some national matters including recent budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, however in public interest, we did not create hurdles thanks to the federal government who agreed to assist us in undertaking the development projects, we proposed for our people, he noted.

About briefing given to him on issues of Balochistan, he said there is a huge potential needed to be explored in the mineral enriched province.



LAHORE: Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presides over the meeting during his visit to Lahore Development Authority. Senior Minister Mariyum Aurangzeb is also present on the occasion.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Trade cooperation

At their meeting on the side-lines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation-Plus summit in Astana, Kazakhstan, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to improve bilateral trade ties. They discussed the issues impeding financial and banking connectivity for easing bilateral trade flows as Mr Sharif called for reviving and expanding trade under a barter system. Mr Putin responded positively, saying that ties between Moscow and Islamabad had recovered in recent years due to improvement in trade linkages. He was hopeful that both Russia and Pakistan would enhance their energy and agriculture cooperation.

Mr Sharif also used his visit to renew calls for strengthening Pakistan's trade and economic cooperation with the Central Asian states, asking their leaders to establish road and rail connectivity and offering them transit rights through this country to trade with the rest of the world via the Karachi port. Speaking at the inaugural session of the trilateral summit of Pakistan, Türkiye and Azerbaijan, he proposed tripartite institutional mechanisms to strengthen commercial ties. He also mentioned plans to host a regional connectivity summit to provide trade corridors to Central Asia. While rail and road connectivity with Central Asia is a long shot, Mr Sharif's meetings with regional leaders indicate his desire to end Pakistan's growing trade isolation by integrating the national economy with that of other countries in the region. That Pakistan remains the least integrated economy regionally, in spite of its geographical advantage and potential to become what Mr Sharif calls an "ideal trade conduit" in the region speaks volumes about our policymakers' "trade isolationist" mindset.

In fact, Islamabad is not part of any effective regional trading bloc. The two regional economic blocs Pakistan is a part of — the Economic Cooperation Organisation and the South Asian Free Trade Area — have been dormant since their formation. While other members of these blocs have significantly boosted economic cooperation, our share of trade with ECO and the South Asian nations is negligible. Out of the four countries Pakistan has borders with, it is only with China with which we have significant trading linkages. With the other three — India, Iran and Afghanistan, our trade position is dismal.

Several factors have impeded Pakistan's economic integration within the region but political and territorial disputes with neighbouring countries, imagined and real security concerns, a narrow band of exportable products, and reliance on the West for both trade and aid are among the main reasons for our continued economic isolation. Trading blocs have helped their respective member states become competitive and have contributed greatly to their economic development. Will Mr Sharif be able to translate his dream of integrating Pakistan within the region by liberalising trade cooperation with South and Central Asia? That remains to be seen.

Islamic social justice

Ghulam Shabbir

With the rare exception of India and China on its eastern peripheries the 'heart of the earth', ie, Rome and Persia, was riddled with wars and was profusely bleeding. Conditions in Europe were also far from satisfactory when, to suture the world social fabric, Islam emerged onto the scene of history in Arabia.

Human history had come full circle. Judaism and Christianity were either addressing human problems on a limited basis or igniting sectarian wars, while old tribal sanctions were fast losing their sheen, and hence were unable to address the malaise. The times were fraught with tragedy when, in the words of Shah Waliullah, Islam appeared as a moral necessity for destroying the corrupt socioeconomic structures of Persia and Byzantium to build anew.

Amidst profound chaos, a man disenchanted with the human plight would occasionally go to a cave in Hira to get respite from the tragedy around him in the excessively mercantile Makkah — a city of stark socioeconomic disparities, which had relegated the disenfranchised segments of society to a diminutive existence. Then, a window opened from the ghayb (Unseen) which brought new life into this desert city, and indeed far beyond its environs. The entire Quran dawned on the heart of the Prophet (PBUH) and settled right and wrong with wisdom from God.

The religious experience of the Prophet emerged as a symbiosis of monotheism and socioeconomic justice. So lucid and vivid was Hazrat Muhammad's first address to his community that the religio-political and mercantile

elites took it as a warning. Pointing to the socioeconomic thrust of his message, H.A.R Gibb writes that the darker side to the prosperity of Makkah, ie socioeconomic inequality, was one of the deep inner causes of the Holy Prophet's unease, which instead of turning into a movement for social revolution, was transformed into a religious movement under the impact of a vivid and immediate experience of a unique God.

Gibb's remark reflects the West's obsession with the so-called duality of spiritual and material, which he pasted onto Islam. Otherwise, to the Quran, from the very beginning monotheism and social justice organically include each other; the rejection of one implies the negation of the other. This was what became the moral social order demonstrated by the first monotheism-based 'republic' of Madinah.

Later, dictatorship, orthodoxy and Sufi-theosophy challenged the purpose of Islam as a social proposition and focused more on ritualism in religion, substituting its collectivism and snatching its moral initiative. Social justice is neither a one-off principle nor does it have Judaic-Christian or Muslim traits; it is directly proportional to the intellectual, scientific, and moral cognition of man as an ever-developing phenomenon. The 19th-century reformer Jamaluddin Afghani also arrived at the same conclusion that socioeconomic reforms, instead of materialistic metaphysics or the mediaeval idea of religion, should be based on monotheistic principles. He propelled into action an illustrious class of intellectuals who produced a vast literature on Islamic social justice, but

on the realm of policy goals and directives this initiative fell prey to Marxism. There was an attempt to graft communist policies onto religion. Thus, Islamic socialism co-evolved with communism, its fate tied up with its surrogate mother — Marxism — and with the fall of Soviet Russia, Islamic socialism turned out to be a damp squib.

The pristine Islam planted socioeconomic egalitarianism in the fertile soil of monotheism, which proved to be a seedbed of socioeconomic equality and human egalitarianism, while communism sowed economic egalitarianism in the barren soil of materialism, and soon withered away. In the Pakistani context, Iqbal inspired by Afghani's thought dreamed of a land free of the master-slave relationship; Jinnah and Liaquat Ali Khan committed allegiance to Islamic socialism and Z.A. Bhutto swept to power on the tide of Islamic socialism. History depicts the clergy and secular elite as Siamese twins indulged in a cut-throat war, but on removal of the thin veneer of hypocrisy both are found to be bedfellows. On this plane, Iqbal rejected orthodoxy and termed secularism positively harmful for mankind.

Deep down, the orthodoxy's 'minimal' Islam accepts secularism. Modernism and its spin-offs have rendered our planet unliveable for the lowly, hence the golden 'best community' of the Quran is duty-bound to formulate Islam as a social proposition of socioeconomic justice and translate it into reality to prove that Islam can best resolve the socioeconomic and political crises of man. -- Courtesy Dawn

Patrons vs people

Aasim Sajjad Akhtar

On Feb 8, a significant number of Pakistan's people, mostly the young, threw out the selectors' script and cast their vote for the PTI. Most knew that their mandate would not be respected, but chose to rebel against the establishment and its hangers-on anyway.

The vote-as-rebellion not only targeted our self-proclaimed 'holy guardians' but also put paid to a large number of seasoned politicians known as 'electables'. These historically powerful influentials may possess large amounts of agricultural land, real estate, industry or other economic capital. Their repeated appearances as MNAs and MPAs reflect deep entrenchment in daily life, especially as mediators between working people and everyday state institutions like the thana, katcheri and patawari.

By voting against these entrenched patrons, many young people demonstrated that politics can transcend the drudgery of life, and can, instead, be informed by ideological commitments. One need not agree with the premise that Imran Khan is a saviour or that the PTI is a genuinely anti-establishment force to recognise that those who made this choice on Feb 8 voted for an idea over entrenched forms of patronage.

One election does not signify an overhaul of our patronage-based order, nor does it displace the establishment that heads the political food chain. But it is important to consider how the vote-as-rebellion might be a stepping stone towards something more substantial. If there is to be a pathway out of the rapid downward spiral of state and society, we should recognise the historical

roots of our predicament.

Today's patronage-based system was institutionalised during Zia's dictatorship. Prior to the 1977 coup, mainstream politics here — like much of the world — was largely organised along ideological lines. The political left espoused socialism, anti-imperialism and ethnic-nationalist claims, while the political right projected an Islamist ideology. The left was winning until Zia banned organised politics, student and trade unions, and reintroduced patronage as the name of the political game. I have previously called this the 'politics of common sense'.

By sponsoring religious ideology and fusing it with a cynical form of patronage, Zia set the stage for mainstream political parties to become mere agglomerations of first-past-the-post constituency-level politicians who were more interested in sustaining themselves as patrons and less in debating ideas and policy.

This 'politics of common sense' was reinforced in the global arena by the neoliberal offensive, spearheaded by IFIs and Wall Street investors. So if local-level politics was reduced to thana, katcheri and patawari, with an 'Islamic touch', government policy was largely determined by IMF conditionalities on the one hand, and discretionary funds to MNAs and MPAs to facilitate private accumulation on the other.

The predominant exception to this 'politics of common sense', largely facilitated by the deep state, was the militant right-wing. Entities like the local Taliban and TLP are symbiotically linked to parliamentary Islamists, and thus patronage with an 'Islamic touch' survives. Ethnonationalists and an emaciated left have contin-

ued to keep their flags flying but the local and global political economy has remained stifling.

Imran Khan and PTI emerged on the political scene claiming to be opposed to the established order. But in 2013 and 2018, the PTI acquired governmental power largely by mobilising entrenched electables. During this period, the party and its leader were also on the 'same page' as the establishment.

When relations soured after April 2022, many electables jumped ship. The party faced repression. But demographic change — two-thirds of Pakistanis are very young — and the PTI's unmatched social media reach meant that its wider support base was not seriously eroded. And on Feb 8, a number of young people came out to defy the 'politics of common sense'.

What happens from hereon is undetermined. Feb 8 only showed us that ordinary Pakistanis can swim against the pro-establishment tide. Remember that young people in the Baloch and other ethnic peripheries have been swimming against this tide for long. Left-progressives have also been challenging the IMF's neoliberal dictates and various forms of class power. A genuinely anti-establishment and ideological politics cannot simply be based on the adulation of messiah-like figures. It must articulate a genuine political and economic alternative to the status quo. It certainly cannot be based on a slightly modified version of state ideology in which religion is used as a political weapon against the oppressed. A new ideological politics demands a new common sense that unites Pakistan's youthful majority around the principle of collective liberation. -- Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Aleem for promoting mutual trade, communication links with South & Central Asian countries

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Communications, Privatization and Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan Friday said that South and Central Asian countries must promote mutual trade and communication links by developing all three means of air, rail and road connectivity and transportation.

Prompt and quick actions were needed in that regard for promoting the mutual trade and

communication across the region, the minister said while talking to Ambassador of Kazakhstan Yerzhan Kistafin, who called on him, according to a press release.

He said, "Pakistan wants to promote bilateral trade and business activities with all the Central Asian states and in this context special incentives are being offered for investment."

The minister apprised

ambassador regarding his visit of Tajikistan in the last week of May.

The Kazakh ambassador invited the minister to participate in the Trade and Logistics Forum, which would be held in Aktau, Kazakhstan, on July 19-20. Twelve major countries of Central and South Asia are participating in the forum.

He also handed over this invitation on behalf of Kazakh Minister for Transport Marat Krabov and

expressed his gratitude for offering by the Government of Pakistan to promote bilateral trade relations.

The ambassador said his country was keenly interested in investing in Pakistan and practical progress would be made soon in that regard.

He emphasized that road connectivity and communications were very much necessary to increase the bilateral links between the two countries.



QUETTA: A delegation of Quetta Chamber of Commerce led by Senator Bilal Khan Mandokhail meeting with Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. Balochistan Chief Minister Mir Sarfraz Bugti and Provincial Ministers are also present.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with the delegation of Pakistan Tax Bar Association.

Predatory IPPs contracts should be declared null & void: Saquib Fayyaz

Independent Report
KARACHI: Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, has said that federal government should cancel all agreements with Independent Power Producers (IPPs); and procure electricity for the national grid from cheaper and cost-effective sources — without any strings vis-à-vis capacity charges.

Mr. Saquib Fayyaz Magoon, Acting President FPCCI, informed that exorbitant and unbearable electricity tariffs have led to

widespread industrial closures and massive job losses. There is an installed generation capacity of over 40,000 MW; while peak demand and transmission capacity is merely 25,000 MW — resulting in a significant excess and utilized generation capacity, he added.

Acting FPCCI Chief apprised that PKR. 2 trillion capacity payments to 40 companies are paralyzing the national economy; and, IPPs continue to receive payments in the name of capacity charges even in the instances when there is no electricity.

Pak rupee gains 12 paise against \$US in interbank trading

ISLAMABAD (INP): In interbank trading on Friday, the Pakistan rupee gained by 12 paise against the previous day's closing of Rs278.49 and closed at Rs 278.37.

However, as per Forex Association of Pakistan (FAP), the buying and selling rates of the dollar in the open market was recorded as Rs 277.75 and Rs 280.50 respectively. The price of the Euro increased by 60 paise to close at Rs 301.43 against the last day's closing of Rs 300.83.

A digital corridor helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs

BEIJING (APP): Chinese e-commerce companies are helping Pakistani young entrepreneurs to expand their businesses across the country.

"Our platform could be said to be the Pakistani version of Pinduoduo. As an e-commerce platform targeting price-sensitive users, groceries and daily necessities are within our scope," Fahad Raja, co-founder of Pakistani e-commerce platform Deal

Kart, introduced himself at the EuroAsia Pakistan Digital Economy Forum held in Beijing.

"As a global giant, Pinduoduo has not yet started operations in Pakistan. But that's not a problem, we are building a Pinduoduo for ourselves."

Raja said that Chinese companies, especially e-commerce companies, are closely related to his career, CEN reported.

Twin cities to benefit from SNGPL's gas pressure improvement initiatives

ISLAMABAD (APP): Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) has undertaken significant projects aimed at improving gas pressure in Rawalpindi and the Federal Capital, especially during the winter season.

In Islamabad, SNGPL has commissioned a new 24-inch diameter gas pipeline along Srinagar Highway to enhance gas pressure.

Spokesman for SNGPL, shared that the new pipeline spans 11 kilometers and was completed within six months. This project is one of the largest capacity-building initiatives executed by the gas distribution company in Islamabad.

He expressed optimism that this pipeline would resolve the low gas pressure issues faced by residents of Islamabad.

Electricity system in Pakistan is rusty: Awais Laghari

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Energy Awais Ahmad Khan Laghari on Friday told the Upper House that entire electricity system in Pakistan was rusty which needs complete overhauling.

Responding to calling attention notice of Senator Falak Naz about excessive and un-announced load shedding of electricity in Upper and Lower Chitral

Shipping activity at Port Qasim

KARACHI (APP): Six ships, X-Press Altair, San Francisco Bridge, MSC Positano, Bitumen Kosei, FSM and Achilles-S scheduled to load/offload Container, Bitumen, LPG and Mogas, berthed at Container Terminal, Multi-Purpose Terminal, Engro Terminal and Oil Terminal respectively on Thursday.

Meanwhile two more ships, IVS Kestrel carrying Steel coil and Palm oil also arrived at outer-anchorage of the Port Qasim on same day.

causing problems for the residents of these areas, the minister said that the complete system would restore in two weeks time.

He said Golan Gol Hydro power project produces 108 megawatt electricity but due to some technical issue it stopped power generation.

The other option to restore electricity was to provide electricity from national grid through

PESCO but the line constructed and managed by WAPDA was also faulted which caused problem however the teams are working on war footings for complete restoration of electricity in Chitral, he said. He also apologized over the inefficiency of employees and said that unless the entire system would not be overhauled, there would be no change in the system.

Swedish envoy praises thriving business environment for Swedish companies in Pak

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Sweden to Pakistan, Henrik Parson admired the flourishing business environment for Swedish companies in Pakistan. In a significant diplomatic meeting, the Swedish envoy commended the robust cooperation and support extended to Swedish companies operating in Pakistan, said a press release issued here Friday.

During his call on Federal Minister for Commerce, Jam Kamal Khan, Ambassador Parson

highlighted the positive experiences of Swedish businesses in the country, noting their impressive growth and profitability. "I have personally met with all Swedish companies currently active in Pakistan to gather their insights," Ambassador Parson stated. "Remarkably, none of them had anything negative to say. On the contrary, they all reported significant growth and profitability. This is a testament to the conducive business environment in Pakistan."

Members NY State Assembly, US Pakistani Public Affairs Committee call on CM KP

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of the members of New York State Assembly and American Pakistani Public Affairs Committee, led by Deputy Speaker Phil Ramos, called on Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Sardar Ali Amin Khan Gandapur in Islamabad the other day. Provincial ministers Syed Qasim Ali Shah, Faisal Khan Tarakai, Muzammil Aslam, Chief Secretary Nadeem Aslam Chaudhry, Additional Chief Secretary Syed Imtiaz Hussain Shah and other concerned high ups of the provincial government were also present on the occasion. Matters related to promoting state to state relationships between the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and

New York State came under discussion. Similarly, prospects for mutual cooperation in the different social sectors were also discussed in the meeting. Both sides agreed to sign Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for partnership in Health, Education, Trade, Human Resource and other important sectors. It was also agreed on the occasion to initiate Nursing Exchange and Tele Health programs with the mutual cooperation of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government and New York State. Talking to the delegates, the chief minister said that the provincial government had always welcomed and appreciated

the support of US government in the different public welfare projects, adding that expending cooperation between both the governments would further strengthen the relationships between Pakistan and the United States. Touching upon the priorities of his government, Ali Amin Khan Gandapur said that the health and education had been the top most priority of PTI government in the province since day one, and we had introduced multiple reforms in these sectors, which had resulted in significant improvement in providing quality healthcare and learning facilities to the people as per their expectations.



LAHORE: A delegation of Shia Ulema Council meeting with Provincial Minister for Health and Chairman Cabinet Committee for Law and order Khawaja Salman Rafique.

Punjab health minister calls for unity during Muharramul Haram

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Minister for Health and Chairman of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order Khawaja Salman Rafique emphasised the role of scholars in fostering unity among Muslims during Muharram-ul-Haram. He conveyed the message during a meeting with a delegation from the Shia Ulema Council on Friday. The discussions centered on security measures for the upcoming Muharram. Saad Rafique assured that the government planned comprehensive security

arrangements for Majalis, processions, saabel, niaz, and azadari. He highlighted a special security plan and stated that police forces were instructed to implement fool-proof security measures throughout the province. The minister also stressed the importance of proactive involvement of peace committees to maintain harmony. The Shia Ulema Council's delegation, including Qasim Ali Qasmi, Sagheer Abbas Virk, and Safdar Hussain Jafri, acknowledged the robustness of the security plans.

Crackdown against corrupt officers ongoing in Punjab Food dept

LAHORE (APP): A crackdown against corrupt officers is ongoing as per the direction of Punjab Food Secretary Moazzam Iqbal Sipra. According to official sources here on Friday, legal action has been taken against two more officers of the Punjab Food department. One year service of Principal Assistant Deputy Director Food Rawalpindi (Stenographer) has been confiscated while promotion of Assistant Food Controller Rawalpindi has been stopped for three years. Both officers were found facilitating in wheat and flour smuggling besides helping hoarders and profiteers. Punjab Food Secretary Moazzam Iqbal Sipra said that zero tolerance is being implemented against black sheep in the department. He said that hindrances in providing relief to common man would be removed.

Two bodies found from Faisalabad

FAISALABAD (APP): The bodies of two people including a sexagenarian man were found from different areas in Faisalabad during the past 12 hours. A police spokesman said here on Friday that some passersby spotted the body of a 60-year-old man lying in the waiting area of Allied Hospital-I.

KP Governor visits NVTTC, highlight significance of market oriented training to youth

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Faisal Karim Kundi has said that steps would be taken for empowerment of women and youth and to train them according to demands of contemporary market. He said this during his visit to National Vocational Technical Training Commission (NVTTC) on Friday. On the occasion, KP Governor was also briefed by Chairperson of NVTTC, Gulmina Bilal and Executive Director, Muhammad Amir about working of the commission. KP Governor termed Pakistani workers serving outside the country as ambassadors and said that they played a significant role in sending foreign exchange. He said that majority of laborers working in gulf countries belong to Pakistan and added that they can earn a better livelihood in native areas if provided training modern technologies. Faisal Karim said that youth and women would also be provided trainings in field of mining, tourism and gemstone sector enabling them to explore opportunities in Central Asian States. Governor also urged authorities in NVTTC to develop a liaison with universities and educational institutions to train youth in modern and diversified fields.



BAHAWALPUR: Activists of Pakistan People's Party hold a banner during protest on the eve of black day on 5th July, outside press club in the city.

931 Traffic Wardens to regulate traffic during Muharram

RAWALPINDI (APP): Over 931 Traffic Wardens under the supervision of inspectors and DSPs would perform duties on city roads to control traffic flow during Muharram. According to a City Traffic Officer (CTO), Rawalpindi Tamoor Khan, Traffic Police Officers, and Wardens have also been directed to take action against vehicles having tinted glasses, revolving lights, unregistered vehicles and motorcycles and others moving without proper and fake number plates. In order to ensure the security of the mourning processions during Muharram-ul-Haram, the City Traffic Police (CTP) Rawalpindi has issued a comprehensive traffic plan. According to the plan, there would be a complete ban on parking any vehicle or pushcart on the route of the procession. Fork lifters would move with unregistered vehicles and

KP Govt decides to streamline development process in oil, gas producing districts

PESHAWAR (APP): The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government has decided to further improve the production bonus guidelines issued for the better use of revenues in the districts with oil and gas production capacity and to involve the district administrations of the respective districts in the consultation process. The working has been started on forming committees for the purpose of using the income from oil and gas reserves discovered in Dera Ismail

Khan and North Waziristan in the development process in the respective districts so that the population related to the natural resources of oil and gas can be maximum benefited. In this regard, in the light of the instructions issued by Chief Minister, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Energy and Power department organized a one-day consultation seminar at a local hotel here Friday regarding the improvement of the guidelines of production bonus funds in the districts with oil and gas.

KP Governor condemns Takhtbhai explosion

PESHAWAR (APP): Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi here Friday condemned explosion near Jalala bridge Takhtbhai in Mardan district and expressed sorrow over loss of two lives in the blast. The Governor expressed sympathy with the families of the bereaved families. He prayed for highest place of the victims in eternal peace and speedy recovery of the injured. The Governor said that he equally shared the grief and sorrow through which the victims families were passing through.

Punjab Police's Youth Engagement & Internship Program continues

LAHORE (APP): Under Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif's public-friendly police vision, Punjab Police's Youth Engagement and Internship Programme continues uninterrupted in all districts of the province. Inspector General of Police (IGP) Punjab Dr. Usman Anwar has said that the friends of police and volunteers in police programmes are gaining popularity among the youth for unique opportunity for direct communication with the police. The IGP mentioned that thousands of students

participated in both programs across Lahore and the 36 districts of the province. Among those who have completed the internship, there are 13,000 male students and over 7,000 female students. A Punjab police spokesperson said that students from 88 universities, 143 colleges, and 43 schools participated in the community policing programmes. Over 20,000 students were briefed and trained about police work through the friends of police and volunteers in police programmes.



LAHORE: Punjab Minister for Local Government Zeeshan Rafique presides over the briefing session of Cooperatives Department. MNA Armaghan Subhani is also present.

International News

Newly elected UK PM Keir Starmer says Britain must rediscover its identity

Monitoring Desk LONDON: Newly elected UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Friday said Britain needed to rediscover its identity and undergo a wider reset, in his first words outside his new office at 10 Downing Street, promising to fight to restore trust in politics and serve all voters. Greeted in Downing Street by a large crowd of cheering aides and supporters after formally accepting King Charles's invitation to become prime minister, Starmer's first address made the case for moderate politics to repair voters' broken trust. "It is surely clear to everyone that our country needs a bigger reset, a rediscovery of who we are, because no matter how fierce the storms of history, one of the greatest strengths of this nation has always been our ability to navigate a way to calmer waters," he

said. "This depends upon politicians, particularly those who stand for stability and moderation, as I do." He added: "My government will fight every day until you believe again. From now on, you have a government unburdened by doctrine, guided only by the determination to serve your interest. To defy those quietly those who have written our country off. "You have given us a clear mandate. And we will use it to deliver change." King Charles III earlier officially appointed Starmer as prime minister during an audience at Buckingham Palace. A photograph released by the palace showed the monarch shaking hands with Starmer, whose party won a landslide election victory. The king earlier accepted the resignation of Conservative leader Rishi Sunak. "The king received in

Audience The Right Honourable Sir Keir Starmer MP today and requested him to form a new administration," a palace statement read. "Sir Keir accepted his majesty's offer and kissed hands upon his appointment as prime minister and first lord of the Treasury." Starmer vowed to bring change to Britain as its next prime minister after his Labour Party surged to a comprehensive win in a parliamentary election, ending 14 years of often tumultuous Conservative government. The centre-left Labour was set to win a massive majority in the 650-seat parliament with Sunak's Conservatives poised to suffer the worst performance in the party's long history as voters punished them for a cost of living crisis, failing public services, and a series of scandals.



British Prime Minister Keir Starmer speaks, at Number 10 Downing Street, following the results of the election, in London, Britain.

India, China agree to work on border issues

Monitoring Desk NEW DELHI: Indian Foreign Minister S u b r a h m a n y a m Jaishankar met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on Thursday in Kazakhstan where the two agreed to step up talks to resolve issues along their border, New Delhi said in a statement. India and China share a long Himalayan border, much of it poorly demarcated, and bilateral ties have been sour since a military standoff in July 2020 when at least 20 Indian soldiers and four Chinese troops were killed. India said Jaishankar met Wang on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Astana where they agreed that "prolongation of the current situation in the border areas is not in the interest of either side." The two agreed to enhance meetings between their diplomatic and military officials "to resolve the remaining issues at the earliest," the Indian foreign ministry said in a statement. China and India should properly handle their differences and ensure relations advance on a stable track, a Chinese foreign ministry statement quoted Wang as saying during the talks.

Six Chinese nationals killed in DR Congo attack

Monitoring Desk BENI: Militia fighters attacked a Chinese-linked mining site in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo on Wednesday, killing six Chinese nationals and at least two Congolese soldiers, local officials said. China condemned the attack, which took place in Djugu territory, in the gold-rich Ituri province. Djugu administrator Rughin Mapela said it was carried out by the CODECO (Cooperative for the Development of the Congo) militia.

Hezbollah rains 200 rockets on Israeli military sites

Monitoring Desk BEIRUT: Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a big rocket and drone attack on Israel on Thursday and threatened to hit new targets in retaliation for the killing of a top commander, in the latest surge of violence in the steadily worsening conflict across the border. Sparked by the Gaza war, the conflict between Iran-backed Hezbollah and Israel has been gradually intensifying for months, raising fears of a full-scale war, which both sides have indicated they want to avoid and diplomats are working to prevent. As the latest violence played out in areas at or near the frontier — in keeping with the pattern of the last nine months — the sound of sonic booms rattled nerves for the second successive day in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon. Israeli jets broke the sound barrier over several areas of the country, Lebanon's National News Agency reported. Hezbollah said it launched more than 200 rockets and a swarm of

drones at 10 Israeli military sites in retaliation for Israel's killing of Hezbollah commander Mohammed Nasser in the south on Wednesday. Nasser is one of the most senior Hezbollah commanders to be killed by Israel during the conflict. The Israeli military said around "200 projectiles and over 20 suspicious aerial targets were identified crossing from Lebanon into Israeli territory", a number of which were intercepted by Israeli air defences and fighter jets. Senior Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, speaking at an event in Beirut commemorating Nasser, indicated his group would widen its targeting. "The series of responses continues in succession, and this series will continue to target new sites that the enemy did not imagine would be hit," Safieddine said. Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Wednesday Israeli forces were hitting Hezbollah "very hard every day" and will be ready to take any action necessary against the group, though the preference is to reach a negotiated arrangement.

Hong Kong court hears mitigation pleas from Joshua Wong, other democrats

Monitoring Desk HONG KONG: Prominent Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong should be considered an active participant in a landmark subversion case involving 47 democrats, his lawyer said on Friday, but urged a court to hand him a lighter sentence for entering his plea early. Wong, 27, who wore a gray sweater and navy blue shirt in court, was one of dozens of democratic activists arrested in 2021 for participating in an unofficial poll to select candidates for a 2020 legislative council election. Of these, 47 were charged with "conspiracy to commit subversion" under a national security law imposed by Beijing. Wong's lawyer, Marco Li, told the court that while his client should

be considered an active participant in the conspiracy, he had no involvement in organising or assisting in the primary election. In view of Wong's early plea of guilty, Li urged a reduction of a third in his sentence, which could range from three years to 10 for active participants in the conspiracy, but life for those judged to be "principal offenders". "He very much hopes that after all these offenses, he could part with his past history and be able to reform himself after this particular offense," Li added. Seated in a corner of the dock, Wong was separated from the other defendants by three prison guards. Before the hearing began, he had nodded and waved to friends and supporters.

Ukraine receives third Patriot air defence system from Germany

Monitoring Desk KYIV: Ukraine said on Friday it had taken receipt of its third German-supplied Patriot air defence system following months of pleas for equipment to protect its civilians and infrastructure from Russian air strikes. Moscow renewed its aerial assaults on Ukraine's national power grid in the spring, causing sweeping blackouts. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said earlier this year his country needed at least seven additional Patriot systems to protect itself. The Ukrainian defence ministry said on X the system had already been delivered and thanked Germany for "unwavering support". "It will help improve the protection of civilians and infrastructure.

Struggling Biden faces big test with ABC interview, vows to fight on

Monitoring Desk WASHINGTON: US President Joe Biden, scrambling to defuse a political crisis over his shaky debate performance, will participate in a television interview on Friday that will be closely watched for signs of whether his mental acuity is failing. Biden will travel to Madison, Wisconsin, to rally Democratic voters. During the trip he will be interviewed by ABC News, part of a flurry of events over the next week aimed at showing Americans he still has the stamina to run against Republican candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 election. While Biden insists he is staying in the race and that his health is not faltering, he is under enormous pressure to step aside and open a path for 59-year-old Vice President Kamala Harris. Some donors are making their displeasure known loudly, halting funding or looking at possible Democratic alternatives.

British teacher jailed for 'abusing' schoolboys

Monitoring Desk LONDON: A British teacher who had sex with two teenage students and had a baby with one of them was sentenced on Thursday to six and a half years in jail. Rebecca Joynes, 30, was on police bail for sexual activity with one victim, identified as Boy A, when she began having sex with the second, Boy B, by whom she became pregnant. Sentencing Joynes, a judge said she had been a "high achiever" who had thrown her career away and had her baby taken away from her.

Rishi Sunak resigns after historic loss in UK elections

Monitoring Desk LONDON: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak departed from Buckingham Palace following his resignation as prime minister Friday morning, after the Conservative Party suffered staggering losses in the general election. He left 10 Downing Street after giving his final speech as prime minister, hours suffering a landslide defeat by the left-of-center Labour Party, which will form a government for the first time in 14 years. Rishi Sunak said he would step aside as Conservative leader once arrangements were made to select his successor, as the party sought to rebuild. Earlier, British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak conceded defeat in the national election, saying the opposition Labour Party had won. "The Labour Party has won this general election and I have called Sir Keir Starmer to congratulate him on his victory," Sunak said after winning his parliamentary seat in northern England. "Today, power will change hands in a peaceful and orderly manner, with goodwill on all sides. That is something that should give us all confidence in our country's stability and future."

Digitisation of taxation system, Govt priority to prevent evasion of billions: PM

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calling the digitisation of taxation system government's priority to prevent tax evasion worth billions of rupees, on Friday directed the authorities concerned to immediately create a dashboard to monitor the ongoing digitisation and implementation of the reforms.

The prime minister, chairing a meeting to review the reforms process of the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), instructed to bring the taxable non-filers into the tax net and revoke the discretionary powers of the customs appraisers, and sought an implementation report from FBR chairman within 24 hours.

During the briefing on FBR's digitisation, the meeting was informed that during the FBR digitisation, 4.5 million taxable individuals have been identified who were not part of the tax net.

It was told that consequent to the government's measures, over 300,000 more individuals have filed their tax returns within few weeks.

Besides, the refunds of 4,000 companies have been stopped during last two weeks, following the detection of under-invoicing and forged sales tax refunds.

The prime minister said that the tax evaders as well as the officers and staffers facilitating them would be

brought to book and vowed not to spare those plundering the public kitty. Besides, the taxpayers fulfilling their responsibility timely would be acknowledged too, he added.

Prime Minister Shehbaz said that state-of-the-art scanners would be installed at the seaports to ensure transparency and prevent corruption in the system. He also sought a comprehensive report on the magnitude of tax evasion and the measures for its prevention.

He vowed to introduce a taxation system of international standard in the country and called for engaging well reputed professionals and experts for formulation of tax policy.

The prime minister sought a comprehensive strategy on FBR's digitisation and reforms and the set targets in the next meeting.

Federal ministers Muhammad Aurangzeb and Ahmad Khan Cheema, Minister of State Ali Pervaiz Malik, PM's Coordinator Rana Ehsan Afzal, FBR Chairman, CEO of Pakistan Business Council Ehsan Malik, CEO of Karandaz Waqasul Hassan and relevant senior officer attended the meeting. Dr Shamsad Akhtar, Naveed Andrabi, Asif Pir and Ali Malik joined the meeting via video link.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif chairs a review meeting on Digitization and Reforms of FBR.



ISLAMABAD: Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change and Environmental Coordination, Romina Khurshid Alam called on Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Newspapers received advertisements of Rs 9 bln as compared to news channels: Attaullah Tarar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Attaullah Tarar on Friday said the newspapers of the country had received the maximum advertisements of Rs 9 billion whereas the new channels were given Rs 6 billion advertisements.

Responding to the question of Senator Sarmad Ali Khan pertaining to criteria for news channels and newspapers during the question hour session of the second meeting of the 340th session of the Senate of Pakistan, the Min-

ister informed that the newspapers were facing financial crisis due to which the current government paid special attention to it.

Attaullah Tarar said as per the 1997 Services Manual, advertisements were given to the news and media outlets. He added that a policy for advertisement was introduced in 2021 which was amended in 2022.

"There is no criteria to gauge electronic media's eligibility for getting advertisements. However, our

rates' committee based on rating of news channels allows a limit or number of advertisements to be given to a particular channel," he said.

The Minister underlined that at present no advertisements for any news channel were halted by the current government.

The criteria, he said for advertisement was to convey the intended message to maximum audience effectively, whereas the rating system for news channels helps achieve that ambition.

PIC orders HEC to finalize actions on scholarship misuse

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Pakistan Information Commission (PIC) has ordered the Higher Education Commission (HEC) to expedite and finalize actions against the misuse of scholarships and the breach of public trust.

The order comes in response to an appeal filed by citizen Azmat Khan, highlighting the need for immediate governance measures.

The appellant has sought list of scholars who went abroad on HEC scholarships over the past decade. Specifically, the list should include details of scholars from 01-01-2013

to 31-12-2023, distinguishing between those pursuing M.Phil and PhD programs.

Additionally, the list should identify students who did not return or complete their study programs within the stipulated time period and detail the actions taken against them by the HEC.

In its response to the appeal, HEC cited Section 7(g) of the Right of Access to Information (RTI) Act, 2017, asserting that the sought information is exempt from disclosure as it could potentially lead to the harassment of individuals, particularly female scholars.



ISLAMABAD: Chief Commissioner and Chairman Capital Development Authority (CDA) Muhammad Ali Randhawa presenting a shield to a student of the Islamabad Model College for Girls F-7/4, during a ceremony of Federal Education & Professional Training launched under the Summer Camp, in the Federal Capital.

Capital's I-14, I-15 sectors' issues referred to Senate body on Interior

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Senate Chairman on Friday referred the agenda items pertaining to I-14 and I-15 sectors facing negligence of the civic agency for past many years for further debate in its Committee on Interior to hold further debate for positive conclusions. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Law and Justice, Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar in response to the question of Senator Shahadat Awan highlighting negligence and incompetence of the Capital Development Authority (CDA) in providing water supply to I-14 sector and possession of plots to I-14 for

the past 25 years during the question hour session of the second meeting of the 334th Senate session urged the chair to move the agenda to the Committee.

Senator Tarar said the issue was pertinent and a classic case depicting inability of many previous governments to address the issue. He said the matter raised by the Senator should be sent to the interior committee where the CDA should regularly take up the matter. Commenting on Sector I-15 issue, Tarar said I-15 sector was conceived in 1995 and then 2005 and 2014 its layout plans were changed to promote vertical buildings.

IFA cracks down on adulterated milk; destroys 1100 ltrs

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Islamabad Food Authority (IFA) led by food safety teams (FSTs) on Friday, carried out a major operation in Rawat, resulting in the destruction of 1100 liters of contaminated milk.

Talking to APP, Deputy Director Operations (DDO) of IFA, Dr Tahira Siddique, said that during the operation, 10,000 liters of milk were tested.

Using a milk adulteration testing kit, the team found positive results for contamination on the spot, leading to the immediate destruction of the adulterated milk.

Dr. Tahira Siddique, commenting on the issue, emphasized that mixing milk and water or any other substances was a serious offense.

Pakistani couple welcomes baby boy during Hajj in Madina

ISLAMABAD (APP): A Pakistani couple from Balochistan has welcomed a healthy baby boy in the holy city of Madina during the Hajj 2024.

The birth of the baby, named Muhammad, brought double joy for the parents, especially due to his birth in the holy city.

The Pakistan Hajj Medical Mission in Madina, with the assistance of lady doctors and nurses, provided excellent care to both the mother and the newborn. They ensured that all necessary medical facilities were available to them.

Director General of Hajj in Saudi Arabia Abdul Wahab Soomro, along with officials of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony, invited the parents to the Pakistan House adjacent to the hospital. They expressed warm sentiments and heartfelt congratulations for the baby.

Palestinian Medical Students to complete education in Pakistan: Ishaq Dar

ISLAMABAD (APP): Leader of the House in Senate and Foreign Minister, Senator Ishaq Dar on Friday informed the Upper House that Palestinian medical students will complete their medical education in Pakistan. He informed the House that some UK based groups had approached him as Foreign Minister that Pakistan should facilitate the Palestinian medical students of final year in completing their degrees because the infrastructure in Gaza has completely destroyed.

The foreign minister said the stance of Pakistan's government on Gaza is very clear and Pakistan approached all available fo-

rum to promote its stance on Gaza. He said first of all Pakistan raised the issue of Gaza in Organization of Islamic Country (OIC) meeting which took place in Gambia, later in the D-8 meeting which took place in Istanbul and demanded at every forum that Israel's atrocities in Gaza must be stopped. He said that Pakistan also supported that the humanitarian aid should be given free flow in Gaza and Pakistan in this regard had sent nine consignments so far as an aid for the brothers and sisters in Gaza. Pakistan has also demanded that the proceedings against Israel's war crimes.

The BISP chairperson assured unflinching support for minorities

ISLAMABAD (APP): Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Chairperson Senator Rubina Khalid, in a meeting with Deputy Speaker of the Sindh Provincial Assembly Anthony Naveed Friday, assured her unflinching support for the minority communities.

The two sides discussed the recent BISP survey, which identified the special needs of deserving Christian families.

The BISP chairperson said BISP's core initiatives were designed to provide substantial benefits to the minority community, ensuring they receive the necessary support and relief.

Senator Rubina reassured Anthony Naveed of the Programme's dedication to assist the minority community, reinforcing its commitment to inclusivity and equitable support for all underprivileged groups in Pakistan.

Senate told NADRA to cover over 11,000 UCs across Pak for data registration

ISLAMABAD (APP): Territory (ICT).

He added that there was a total of 11,777 UCs in the country and within 2.5 years small NADRA Centers would be established providing three main facilities of child registration certificate (CRC) - Form B, Cancellation of NIC due to death (CD), and NIC reprint or lost.

He added that NADRA had introduced motorbike teams to cater for disabled and elderly individuals and some 16,700 cases were addressed by those NADRA teams.

Senator Azam Nazeer Tarar, responding to a supplementary query of a Senator, explained that the mobile kit comprised of a camera stand, laptop, biometric and other required paraphernalia for facilitating elderly and specially-abled who were mostly unable to reach offices and mobile vans for their data registration.

The Minister was responding to the question of Senator Fawia Arshad during the second meeting of the 340th session of the Senate.

Senator Tarar said the NADRA's UC level initiative would be rolled out across the country, whereas initially 1150 UCs have been selected horizontally starting from the mega urban centers of the country covering every nook and corner and it would not be restricted to the Islamabad Capital

Court sends Amir to jail on judicial remand

ISLAMABAD (APP): The District and Sessions Court on Friday sent the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader Amir Mughal to jail on judicial remand.

Judicial Magistrate Abbas Shah heard the case of Amir Mughal for allegedly disrupting government operations.

Police requested a five-day physical remand for Mughal. However, the court denied the request and ordered to send Mughal to jail on judicial remand.

TIKA inaugurates advanced laboratories across Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) has inaugurated a series of advanced laboratories across Pakistan, enhancing the country's scientific, healthcare, and educational infrastructure.

In Islamabad, the observatory at the Horticultural Research Institute (HRI) of the National Agricultural Research Center (NARC) was inaugurated by Ambassador of Turkey Dr. Mehmet Paçaci, TIKA Vice President Dr. Ümit Naci Yorulmaz, and Chairman

Dr. Ghulam Muhammad Ali, featuring cutting-edge technology to monitor climatic conditions, pest behavior, and plant health.

In Rawalpindi, the Zoological Diversity Lab and Animal Shelter at Rawalpindi Women University (RWU) was opened by TIKA Vice President Dr. Ümit Naci Yorulmaz and RWU Rector Prof. Dr. Anila Kamal, providing a platform for pioneering research in species conservation and ecological interactions said a news release issued here on Friday.

Chief Justice (CJ) IHC Aamir Farooq has remarked we are sitting here for the people. We are sitting for people. If nothing has been done since two years then you have to restore the confidence of people.

Are they terrorists that they were engaged... Be careful in your words. What was the reason that they were protesting.

Challan has not been filed since the last two years. It reveals system has failed to how much extent.

He gave these remarks on Friday during the hearing of petition filed against arrest of Razaqat Tanoli father of Shakil Tanoli who died after being hit by vehicle in 2022.

The counsel for petitioner said police is not recording statement of Razaqat Tanoli.

Visits CPO IG FC lauds performance of Islamabad Police

IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi briefed IG FC on the ongoing projects in Islamabad Police, the welfare of public and police officers

ISLAMABAD: According to details, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, accompanied by senior police officers, welcomed IG Frontier Constabulary (FC) Moazzam Jah Ansari upon his arrival at the Central Police Office (CPO) Islamabad, a public relations officer said.

He said that, a smart contingent of Islamabad Police presented a guard of

security, the performance of the Safe City initiative, and other pertinent matters.

IG FC appreciated the performance of Islamabad Police and provided suggestions for further improvement.

IGP Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi also chaired meetings at CPO with DIG Islamabad, DIG Headquarters, DIG Security, DG Safe City, and other officers. The meeting focused on

reviewing the implementation of security measures in the Red Zone and Diplomatic Enclave.

He issued additional directives to enhance monitoring and patrolling using Safe City cameras to bolster security in the Red Zone and Diplomatic Enclave.

ISLAMABAD: A view of fallen trees on the roadside after heavy rain in the Federal Capital.

From innovation to enforcement Islamabad Traffic Police keeps the capital moving

ISLAMABAD: According to the details, under the command of Inspector General of Police Islamabad Syed Ali Nasir Rizvi, Islamabad Traffic Police showed effective performance.

During the first six months of 2024, six different testing centers were established, including Facilitation on Wheel, Education on Wheel, and Mechanic on Wheel, Highway Patrol, and Night Patrol.

The facility of renewing driving licenses was provided to senior citizens above 70 years of age at their homes, along with online driving license renewal. Many reforms were implemented during this period,

including the establishment of the Islamabad Traffic Police Theme Park, ensuring smooth traffic flow during office hours, and installing traffic signboards on various highways to guide citizens.

Islamabad Traffic Police organized 507 workshops and classes related to road safety and traffic rules in the first six months of 2024, conducted in various private and government schools, institutions, and traffic headquarters in Islamabad to raise awareness about driving learner permits and traffic rules among citizens. More than 176,000 citizens were informed about road safety and traffic rules during these workshops.