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Ex-ISI chief Faiz Hamid taken into custody by military: ISPR

Process of "Field General Court Martial" initiated against former spy master, says military's media wing; Arrest made on allegations levelled by housing society CEO; Detailed court of inquiry undertaken by army to probe allegations

ISLAMABAD (Agencies): In an unprecedented move, the country's former spymaster, Lt-Gen (ret) Faiz Hameed, was detained by military authorities and court martial proceedings have been initiated against him on charges of corruption, misuse of authority and violating the Pakistan Army Act.



ISLAMABAD: Lt-Gen (ret) Faiz Hameed, former spymaster, was detained by military authorities and court martial proceedings have been initiated against him on charges of corruption, misuse of authority and violating the Pakistan Army Act.

"Complying with the orders of Supreme Court of Pakistan, a detailed court of inquiry was undertaken by Pakistan Army, to ascertain correctness of complaints in Top City case made against Lt-Gen (ret) Faiz Hameed. Consequently, appropriate disciplinary action has been initiated against Hameed, under provisions of Pakistan Army Act," read a statement issued by military's media wing, the Inter-Ser-

VICES Public Relations (ISPR) on Monday.

"In addition, multiple instances of violation of Pakistan Army Act post retirement have also been established. The process of Field General Court Martial has been initiated and Gen Faiz has been taken into military custody," the statement added.

Given the powerful position of head of ISI, it is seen as unusual that the former spymaster was not only arrested but court martial proceedings had been

initiated against him.

The charges against Gen Faiz date back to May 2017 when he was DG-C in the ISI.

In April, the army constituted a high-level inquiry committee headed by a major general to look into the allegations against Gen Faiz.

The inquiry was ordered in pursuant to the orders of the Supreme Court and in the light of the directives of the Ministry of Defence.

This was the first formal inquiry ordered against Gen Faiz, who resigned in November 2022 four months before his retirement date.

Gen Faiz served as DG C in the ISI and later headed the spy agency. His name surfaced in many controversies including the Faizabad Dharna case.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with US Ambassador, Donald Blome during meeting held at the UNICEF Warehouse Port Qasim in Karachi.

Pakistan committed to protection of minorities' rights, ensure equal opportunities: President

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday reiterated that Pakistan was committed to protection of the rights of minorities and provision of equal opportunities to them to excel in every walk of life as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan.

Addressing a ceremony to mark the celebrations of Minorities' Day at the Aiwan-e-Sadr, the president said, "Under the Constitution and under the onus of oath my office, I have the duty to protect all rights of the minorities and provide all kind of facilitation".

The event arranged by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony was attended by members of parliament, ulema, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, media and representatives from different minorities living in Pakistan.

The president further stressed upon enhancement of jobs opportunities for the minorities in different government's departments

on merit basis besides, increasing the existing jobs quota. Lauding the role of the minorities in the national progress and prosperity, he said that they were the equal citizens of Pakistan and future builders of the nation. Stressing upon the significance of Q u a i d - e - A z a m Muhammad Ali Jinnah's vision, the president said they were required to fully emulate his message aimed at fostering unity, brotherhood and religious tolerance in society.

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leadership who had realized the future fate of minorities in India.

President Zardari said the people of Pakistan always felt the pains of sufferings of humanity and for those lying lowly in society and accorded due respect and space to all the minorities living here because such a message of human consideration had been embedded in their religion and culture.

He also recited a verse of famous Sindh poet, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, in this regard to emphasize his point of view.

While recollecting the events of Pakistan Movement, he said that his father in his youth took active part for the creation of Pakistan.

President Zardari referring to the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza, said that atrocious and indiscriminate strikes were targeting all Palestinians and people from different faiths.

Defence Minister visits Naval Headquarters

ISLAMABAD (APP): Defence Minister, Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Monday visited Naval Headquarters (NHQ) here and called on Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Naveed Ashraf.

During the meeting, matters about the Regional Maritime Security milieu and operational readiness of the Pakistan Navy were discussed, a Pakistan Navy news release said.

The naval chief apprised the minister on maritime challenges and the Pakistan Navy's preparedness to meet them. The minister was also briefed on the Pakistan Navy's future capability enhancement and modernization plans.

The minister took keen interest in details of recent acquisitions of state-of-the-art platforms and equipment which will further strengthen the seaward defence of the country. The minister also acknowledged the importance of the Pakistan Navy in safeguarding the maritime interests of the country.

CJP criticises judges for disrespecting ECP officials

KARACHI (APP): Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP), Qazi Faez Isa, has expressed concern over the conduct of some judges, stating that while the chairman and members of the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) deserve respect, it is regrettable that certain judges make derogatory remarks, Express News reported.

The remarks were made as the apex court issued a ruling regarding the recounting of votes in three constituencies of the National Assembly.

The majority decision, authored by CJP Isa, emphasised that the ECP is a constitutional body and its officials, including the chairman and members, are entitled to respect.

He lamented that some judges overlook this aspect, issuing disrespectful comments.

PM Shehbaz pledges support for youth to transform Pakistan into a developed nation

ISLAMABAD (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Monday pledged to allocate ample resources to the nation's youth to help transform the country into a thriving, developed nation. Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Youth, organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, he recalled his service as Chief Minister of Punjab under the leadership of President Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. He aimed to provide opportunities for the youth to change the country's destiny as prime minister.

"The country's youth have the potential to elevate the nation to new heights, if given access to modern education and resources,"

he added. He expressed his vision of equipping talented youth with modern education, Information Technology, and Artificial Intelligence to spark a revolution in the country, similar to the progress seen in China. He highlighted his previous efforts in providing modern facilities to students at Danish Schools.

Shehbaz Sharif also lamented that, despite having abundant resources and 77 years of independence, the country remains heavily burdened by debt. He noted that extreme poverty prevents many from affording basic needs, such as arranging marriages for their daughters, while the country's elite class enjoys significant privileges.



ISLAMABAD: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif inaugurates the Commonwealth Asia Youth Alliance Secretariat, at the International Youth Day ceremony.

US delivers lifesaving nutrition assistance to combat malnutrition in Pakistan

KARACHI (APP): The United States (US) Ambassador Donald Blome on Monday delivered a significant shipment of lifesaving nutrition assistance to Pakistan to combat acute malnutrition among vulnerable populations.

Addressing the event at Maersk Warehouse in Port Qasim, he said the shipment, which includes over 486 metric tons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), is expected to benefit approximately 29,000 Pakistani children suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Ambassador Blome said the delivery represents a considerable contribution, equivalent in weight to a fully loaded Boeing 747 jumbo jet. More than half of the assistance will be distributed in Sindh province,

with the remainder allocated to Balochistan, both of which were heavily impacted by the catastrophic floods of 2022, he added.

Since 2022, he said the US has provided nearly \$100 million in assistance to address acute malnutrition in Pakistan, with \$15 million specifically allocated for treating severely malnourished children. He said this support also includes emergency food and health care services, benefiting over 317,000 Pakistani mothers and children.

He said the US assistance has further bolstered Pakistan's health infrastructure, enhancing screening and treatment for malnourished children under five, and providing support to women who are pregnant or breastfeeding.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah along with US Ambassador, Donald Blome and others visiting during the handing over ceremony of USAID Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to UNICEF, held at the UNICEF Warehouse Port Qasim in Karachi.

Reducing KMC's administrative expenses among top priorities: Mayor Karachi

KARACHI (APP): Mayor Karachi, Barrister Murtaza Wahab, has stated that reducing the administrative expenses of the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) and timely completion of essential tasks are top priorities.

He expressed these views while reviewing the fuel supply process through the PSO fleet card system for KMC service vehicles instead of designated petrol pumps.

He said that the fuel supply process for KMC services vehicles has been improved. As a result of this initiative, in July 2024 alone, a total of 15,710 liters of diesel and petrol were saved, amounting to a total value of Rs 3,761,970. The fuel supply process for KMC services vehicles has been digitized and shifted to the PSO fleet card system since July 2024. By adopting this transparent method, KMC has not only digitized the

fuel consumption of its vehicles but also improved travel time and other related matters, he said.

He said that particularly, this method has provided ease and convenience in fuel procurement for fire brigade vehicles and other municipal service vehicles under KMC, for which the efforts of the POL Store and Procurement Department of KMC are commendable.

Barrister Murtaza Wahab, said that steps have been taken to keep KMC services vehicles operational, and arrangements have been made to facilitate fuel acquisition at any nearby pump through the fleet card system at any time.

The Mayor Karachi said that the difficulties and obstacles encountered under the previous system have also been addressed, enabling KMC to perform its municipal services more effectively.



ISLAMABAD: President Asif Ali Zardari addressing a ceremony in connection with Minorities' Day in Pakistan, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Imran Khan warns of protests if attempts made to extend CJP Isa's term

RAWALPINDI (INP): Founder of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Imran Khan, has warned of potential protests if the government disregards decisions concerning reserved seats and attempts to extend the Chief Justice's term. During an informal discussion with journalists in Adiala Jail, Khan expressed his discontent with the current political climate, comparing Pakistan's situation to that of Bangladesh under Sheikh Hasina.

"Our conditions are worse than Bangladesh's" Khan claimed. Describing the conditions, the PTI's supremo noted that Hasina Wajid had appointed her own Army Chief, Chief Justice, and police chiefs while sidelin-

ing opposition parties. He drew parallels between these events and Pakistan, stating "These events have occurred and are occurring in Pakistan as well."

In a critique of the government's handling of the 9 May incidents, Khan accused the authorities of orchestrating a crackdown on PTI under false pretences.

"The same people who stole footage of 9 May were responsible for the events of that day. Half of our leadership was jailed, while the rest went underground or were coerced out of the party," stated Khan.

The former premier warned that any attempt to extend the Chief Justice's term or disregard Supreme Court decisions would result in widespread protests.



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq meeting with Her Excellency Ms. Toshiko Abe San, Minister of State of Japan for Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology.

Sindh govt launches free skills training program to empower youth

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh government with an aim to empower the youth across the province has launched an extensive free skills training program for them. A communiqué issued here on Monday stated that the initiative will provide specialized training in freelancing, computer skills, driving, vocational development, and the arts at the district level.

According to Sindh Minister for Agriculture and Sports Sardar Muhammad Bux Mahar, the program was expected to benefit thousands of young people throughout the year. This follows a successful effort by the Youth Department last year, which trained 25,000 individuals in various skills.

On International Youth Day, the Minister emphasized the vision of

PPP Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari to ensure that every young person in Sindh acquires the skills necessary for economic independence.

Sardar Bux Mahar said, "The Sindh government is committed to overcoming the challenges faced by our youth and views them as a critical asset to our society."

The provincial government was also focused on generating new employment opportunities for young individuals across different sectors each year.

Additionally, the youth department will provide financial support to registered organizations to further assist the youth of province. This program was aimed to enhance the employability of Sindh's youth, support their professional development.

Youth valuable assets of our country: Governor

KARACHI (APP): The Governor of Sindh Mohammed Kamran Khan Tessori on the occasion of International Youth Day, said that the youth were the valuable assets of our country.

He said that it was our mission to provide opportunities to the youth.

Tessori said that under the Governor's Initiative 50 thousand youth were being given IT training.

Over 8 thousand laptops and iPhones had been distributed among the youth, he said adding that loans of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1 crore were also being given to those, who submit a good business proposal.

Reports about removing Governor Tessori in Sindh baseless: Dar

ISLAMABAD (INP): Deputy Prime Minister Ishaq Dar on Monday ruled out the reports regarding removal of Governor Sindh Kamran Tessori.

Talking to a private TV channel here, he termed the reports about replacing Tessori as baseless and out of context.

Ishaq Dar was of the view that Bashir Memon was not being appointed as the new governor of the province. Final decision over Sindh's governor will be taken in next few days, he added.

Earlier, the Mutthahida Qaumi Movement-Pakistan (MQM-P), a key ally of PML-N at the Centre, threatened to quit the ruling coalition if the PML-N failed to fulfill its 'promises' made during the power sharing agreement.

Prices of POL products likely to be decreased by Rs 12 per liter

ISLAMABAD (Online): The prices of petroleum products are likely to be decreased by Rs 12 per liter. Sources said as per working made so far prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene oil are likely to be curtailed. The reduction in price of petrol is expected over Rs 9 per liter. The price of diesel is likely to be curtailed by Rs 8.50 per liter. According to sources the price of kerosene oil is likely to be curtailed over Rs 12 per liter.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari exchanges views with US Ambassador, Donald Blome during meeting held at Bilawal House in Karachi.

Commissioner Karachi chairs meeting to review measures to control excessive profiteering

KARACHI (APP): Commissioner Karachi Syed Hassan Naqvi on Monday chaired a meeting to review the measures to control excessive profiteering.

All deputy commissioners attended the meeting and presented details of the actions taken in their respective districts.

Assistant Commissioner Head Quarters Commissioner Office Rabia Syed gave a briefing to the meeting on the details available on the specially created Digital Dashboard for monitoring.

She informed the meeting about the details of price checking locations and actions taken against violators by Assistant Commissioners.

All Assistant Commissioners were present on the video link and briefed the Commissioner about their actions.

The Commissioner Karachi appreciated the performance of various Assistant Commissioners in enforcing official prices.

Assistant Commissioners of Ferozabad and Airport were asked to explain why they did not

check prices in different areas. The Commissioner said that efforts are needed to make the anti-profiteering campaign effective. All Assistant Commissioners will take action every day, and those who do not will have to explain.

The meeting was informed about the details of the action taken against profiteers during the last week from August 4 to August 10, according to which a total fine of Rs 1,522,576 was imposed in all districts.

In District South, a fine of Rs 563,500 was imposed on 121 profiteers. In District East, 82 shopkeepers were fined over Rs 200,000 for violating official prices.

In District West, 38 shopkeepers were fined Rs 32,000. In District Central, a fine of over Rs 351,000 was imposed on 125 shopkeepers.

In District Malir, a fine of Rs 32,000 was imposed on 90 shopkeepers. In Korangi, a fine of Rs 119,000 was imposed on 52 shopkeepers. In Keamari, a fine of Rs 224,000 was imposed on 68 shopkeepers.



ISLAMABAD: H.E. Henny Fokel De Vries, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherland called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif.

Daily Voice of Masses
Independent

The court's power

The rumbling within the Supreme Court grows louder. In an order pertaining to held-up pension payments by the National Bank of Pakistan, Justice Mansoor Ali Shah has underlined that implementing the apex court's verdicts is not 'optional'. "To disregard or delay the implementation of [the Supreme Court's] verdicts is to challenge the very framework of our legal system," he has remarked in the order, noting that when the apex court issues a verdict, it does so as the ultimate interpreter of the Constitution. He has warned that non-compliance sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to executive overreach.

Justice Shah's observations, also reflected in his remarks a day later at a conference, have stirred speculation over how proceedings in the reserved seats case may unfold. It may be recalled that the government recently enacted legislation designed to frustrate the Supreme Court's order in the case, while its representatives and allies have taken turns to attack both the judgement and the eight judges behind it.

"The power to hold individuals or entities in contempt for failing to comply with a court order is fundamental to the judiciary's ability to function effectively," Justice Shah observes in his order. "Without this power, the judiciary would be rendered toothless, unable to enforce its decisions, thereby jeopardising the administration of justice."

If the sword of contempt is unsheathed, the ECP could be its first casualty. Having acted on multiple occasions as if it is under no compulsion to obey the laws or court orders, the ECP has, in this instance too, refused to respect the Supreme Court as the final arbiter of the Constitution. It should have allotted whatever reserved seats accrued to the PTI by now in line with court directives, but has chosen, instead, to play tag-team with the government in subverting the verdict.

Still, it must be acknowledged that part of the blame falls on the court itself. Due to certain past actions and decisions, the apex court earned the distrust of the political class, lending itself to controversy. Such actions include the endorsement of military takeovers, and its role in dislodging at least two prime ministers. It must be noted, however, that even in these cases, its verdicts were implemented.

Secondly, the court must also acknowledge that the absence of the detailed verdict in the reserved seats case continues to foster controversy. While it should take adequate measures to enforce its writ and uphold the constitutional order, it must also realise that it needs to announce the detailed verdict soon for the objections against it to be addressed with finality.

The reserved seats case has turned into a charged political issue. Wisdom and restraint are needed in abundance to see the matter through.

The best-laid plans

Zarrar Khuhro

Recently, Benjamin Netanyahu entered the US Congress like a conquering hero, garnering over 50 standing ovations in a 60-minute speech from fawning Congressmen and women clapping for their AIPAC dollars like trained circus seals. While several Congress people boycotted the proceedings and Rashida Tlaib staged a lonely, one-woman protest in the hall, the overwhelming impression was that this is America's genocide as much as it is Israel's. In Pakistani parlance, they are absolutely on the same page.

Around the same time, half a world away, Hamas and Fatah — bitter rivals at the best of times — met in Beijing to sign a national unity agreement under the auspices of the Chinese government. Hamas, Fatah and 12 other Palestinian groups agreed to lay the groundwork for an "interim national reconciliation government" that would govern post-war Gaza.

While this does not mean that the problems between Hamas and the Fatah-run Palestinian Authority (PA) — widely viewed by Hamas and its allies as Israel's accomplices — have ended, it does put a crimp in one of the proposed US-Israeli plans for a post-war Gaza.

Although Netanyahu claims that he wants all of Gaza under direct Israeli control, while holding out the option of a 'deradicalised' Palestinian governmental presence, there have been several other proposals that offer insight into what America and Israel envisage happening.

For example, anonymous Israeli officials have let it be known that they were "open in principle to Palestinians securing ar-

eas of the Gaza Strip cleared of Hamas". This statement tallies with US discussing ways to 'revitalise' and reform the PA with an aim of having it at least participate in the governing of a post-Hamas Gaza. This proposal was formally rejected by Hamas and also Israel, but Israeli media reported that Netanyahu 'unofficially' expressed interest in the plan, though that could have been just to string the US along. The Beijing agreement now makes that an impossibility; even before that, the PA had begun to realise that obedience to Tel Aviv will not stop the killings of Palestinians in the West Bank nor the illegal seizure of their land, all of which has increased manifold since Oct 7.

In addition to this, support for Hamas in the PA-controlled West Bank has increased manifold, with 82 per cent Palestinians polled there expressing understanding for why Hamas launched the attacks and 88pc calling for PA President Mahmoud Abbas to resign. All this means that the PA is in no physical or political shape to take over Gaza, even if it wanted to.

Before this, another option considered by Israel had come to a premature close. This was to hand over control of Gaza to local clans, who would 'govern' the area while also keeping what was left of Hamas suppressed with Israeli aid, and acting as intermediaries for Tel Aviv.

Gaza is home to many clans and large family groups of varying influence and power. And while most tend to be law-abiding and benign, some, like the infamous Doghmush clan, formed gangs that engages in murder, kidnapping and racketeering, especially in the chaos preceding and immediately after the Hamas takeover.

Realising that credibility would come from establishing control, Hamas quickly cracked down on such groups and publicly executed those accused of criminal activities, attacks on Hamas leaders and collaboration with Israel. In 2017, one such condemned man, Hisham al-Aloul, accused Israeli intelligence of betraying him before he was executed.

With Hamas under fire and Gaza being decimated, some in Israel decided to give this plan another go earlier this year by once again looking to members of the Doghmush clan as accomplices. Once again, we saw an embattled Hamas take swift action by executing a major clan leader of the tribe in Mar-ch this year. This was followed by a joint statement from the heads of Palestinian tribes, clans and families rejecting any notion of being used as a governing political body.

Soon after, Basem Naim, a top member of Hamas' political bureau in Gaza, announced that all Palestinian tribes 'have rejected this 'Zionist offer' and know that these offers and plans are malicious and aim at dividing the Palestinians".

Words were followed by action and we saw Fatah, along with numerous clans, civil society groups and factions, stepping in to help provide security for the aid convoys that Israel had relentlessly targeted with the excuse that these transported Hamas members.

This leaves the fantasy of a 'multinational' or 'Arab/Muslim-led' security force that would magically appear and take over control of whatever is left of Gaza.

But given that the only country to even reportedly express interest in this is the UAE, an Arab ally of Israel, this option can be viewed as dead on the ground, much like the children of Palestine. -- Courtesy Dawn

Skills and success

Neda Mulji

Some weeks ago, the Federal Directorate of Education and Professional Training organised a wonderful summer fiesta for school-children, with a wide range of skill-based workshops, seminars, lectures and activities. This kind of immersive experience with creative writing, financial literacy, digital technology and so forth, is the urgent need for students who haven't got much exposure to global skills.

Sadly, these children will go back to teacher-led classrooms and traditional teaching after the summer break. Many precious steps forward, but some unfortunate leaps backwards too. It may be time to revisit what they are learning in classrooms and whether the curriculum and teaching methods support the skill development we must envisage for a progressive, holistic application of knowledge.

Skill development starts in early years with knowledge of the world around us, roles and responsibilities, creative and critical thought, and strong foundations in numeracy and literacy. If we begin to benchmark the skills taught in our classrooms to global standards, we may hope to target the aims of the SDGs for education.

This includes reflective teaching practices that only equip teachers with books, and accompanying pedagogy focusing on real-life skills.

We also need to integrate technological experiences for our early years' students. Digital reading programmes, for example, are more efficient at teaching pronunciation, decoding and comprehension. Such programmes lead children through evidence-based reading strategies that start with prompts

and clues to help the child think creatively, absorb the text, and develop the ability to give personal responses using their critical thinking capability.

Such programmes are not as competitive as a noisy classroom environment that has over 50 students and one teacher. In fact, technology affords the time and patience for students to learn at their own pace, and matches their comprehension ability. The programmes are user-friendly, structured to lead students through reading levels, and monitor their progress with timely reports showing reading hours, books covered and scores achieved on comprehension quizzes.

Literacy in the early years is not only about being able to read, but also acquiring the ability to express opinions, draw conclusions and gradually using language independently. A strong early years literacy programme will give students many opportunities to play with words, come up with unique perspectives, and delve into the possibilities of structuring sentences in multiple ways. Sadly, students are mostly preoccupied with the need to produce the 'right' answers, and in that vein, we end up encouraging mimicry where the teacher becomes the crutch that students come to depend on.

A strong math curriculum would enable students to learn in different ways. If one strategy isn't working, a teacher's challenge is to be able to offer different ways to help the student navigate concepts. Rather than 'learning' numeracy concepts, they can be taught to use manipulatives to visualise, analyse and draw conclusions. Simple and easy

ways to support children in accessing learning outcomes can lead to massive benefits as they progress through school levels. And the better their grip on learning, the faster they will develop confidence in their ability to excel in academics. Often, in our society, we equate confidence with being able to speak in public; we couldn't be further from the truth. Confidence stems from one's belief in their ability to learn, understand and apply what they know. The application of skills is the yardstick of confidence that we should be focusing on, especially in the early years. Instead, much of our focus remains on memorisation and reproduction in assessments and tests. Even the melodious tune used to learn the tables hasn't changed in more than a century.

It's time to look closely at what we are producing and how far we've changed our teaching and learning methods to evolve with the times. Teachers are no longer the only source of information, and students will inevitably turn to digital resources; but are we equipping them to understand, navigate and use the digital resources to their advantage and in responsible ways?

When children sing Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, do we ask them if they know what a star is made of? Do we ask them how far the stars might be from us? Do we ask enough questions to pique their curiosity about the world and their place in it? Do we give them the confidence in their own ability to find answers?

It's not always what we teach, but how we teach it that determines the trajectory of success for our students. - Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Pakistan restarts tractor export to Africa: Rana Tanveer

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Industry and Production Rana Tanveer Hussain cut the ribbon at a ceremony arranged on the occasion of restart of the tractors export to Africa here at Millat Tractor Company on Monday.

The company's Chief Executive Raheel Asghar and other top management of the company as well as the foreign guests were also present.

Addressing the ceremony, the Federal

Minister said, "The process of exporting Pakistani tractors to different African countries has started again. I hope it will revive the sinking tractor manufacturing industry." He said that the decision to export tractors to African countries would expedite the process of the tractor manufacturing industry and also ensure speedy agricultural development, thus setting the country's economy on strong footing.

Rana Tanveer Hussain said that everyone knows that the biggest challenge facing Pakistan is the economy, however, the country's economy will recover soon only through agricultural development. The present government has managed to save the country from default and "our goal is to revive the economy," he said, citing that from 2013 to 2017, Pakistan had been developing fast and afterwards, every sector

had started declining due to the incompetent government that took over in 2018. The Federal Minister mentioned that though the present government has taken difficult decisions, these would prove beneficial for the nation and the country, and everything will be fine in a year. "Agriculture will play an important role in the recovery of the economy and the government has given many incentives.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb in a meeting with PepsiCo's CEO for Africa, ME & SA Mr. Eugene Willemssen accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Mr. Muhammad Khosa.



MANSEHRA: First Unit of the Suki Kinari (SK) Hydropower Station in a group photo during ceremony after successfully completed the back feeding process, marking the official countdown to grid-connected power generation for the station, located on the Kunhar River in Mansehra.

OGDCL announces commencement of production from Pak first-ever tight gas project

ISLAMABAD (APP): Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) on Monday announced the successful commencement of early commercial production of Tight Gas from Pakistan's first-ever Tight Gas project, Nur West Well-1 at the Nur Development & Production Lease (D&PL), located in the Sujawal district of Sindh.

According to press release, the Nur West Well-1 is currently producing 1.5

million Standard Cubic Feet per Day (MMSCFD) of gas with a wellhead flowing pressure of 1050 PSI. The gas is sourced from the Lower Guru formation ('A' Sand) and has been seamlessly integrated into the Sui Southern Gas Company Limited (SSGCL) network. This integration will strengthen the national gas supply infrastructure and contribute to the stability of Pakistan's energy supply.

Gold rates remain unchanged

ISLAMABAD (APP): The per tola price of 24 karat gold witnessed no change on Monday and was traded at Rs 256,500 in the local market.

The price of 10 grams of 24 karat also remained stagnant at Rs.219,907 while there was no change in prices of 10 gram 22 karat gold which was traded at Rs.201,582, All Sindh Sarafa Jewellers Association reported.

The price of per tola and ten gram silver remained unchanged at Rs.2,850 and Rs.2,443.41 respectively.

Ahsan Iqbal chairs review meeting on public-private partnership projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Ahsan Iqbal on Monday chaired a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects being executed under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) framework.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Minister for Petroleum Senator Musadik Malik, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Muhammad Jahanzeb

Khan, Secretary Planning Awaiz Manzoor Sumra, Secretary Railways, Secretary Economic Affairs Division, PPP CEO Malik Ahmed Khan and senior officials from federal and provincial ministries, a news release said.

The participants reviewed the implementation report of the ongoing projects and discussed decisions made during the previous meeting.

China Mobile leads global telecom industry

ISLAMABAD (APP): China Mobile International Limited, [China Mobile Communication Corporation (CMCC)] continues to lead the telecom industry, ranking 55th on the Fortune 500 list—a notable rise of seven positions from last year.

Specifically, within the telecom sector, China Mobile, which ascended to the top of the industry last year, maintains its leadership on the industry list this year, said a news release issued here on Monday. The Fortune Global 500 list was released with a total of 133 Chinese companies,

including those from Taiwan, making it to the list. Among them, the three major Chinese telecom operators have collectively secured their positions once again. Over the past year, despite facing a complex and challenging external environment, China Mobile seized the opportunity presented by the accelerating digital transformation of the economy and society.

The company remained steadfast in its development goal of becoming a "world-class information service and technology innovation company."

Finance Minister meets PepsiCo's CEO for Africa

ISLAMABAD (Online): Federal Minister for Finance and Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday held a meeting with PepsiCo's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Africa, Middle East (ME) and South Asia (SA) Eugene Willemssen to discuss Pakistan's economic progress and potential collaboration opportunities.

He was accompanied by CEO Pakistan and Afghanistan Muhammad Khosa, said a news release. The minister welcomed Willemssen and provided an update on Pakistan's economic progress.

He also highlighted recent improvements, including increased foreign exchange reserves, decreased inflation, and stable currency.

Iran's trade with Africa reaches \$1.3 billion

ZANJAN (APP): The president of the Iran-Africa Joint Chamber of Commerce has called for strategic planning to enhance Iran's trade relations with the continent, which currently stand at approximately \$1.3 billion. The current trade volume, Masoud Berahman told a conference in the city of Zanjan on Sunday, is significantly lower than the potential trade opportunities between Iran and Africa.

The minister attributed these positive indicators to the successful completion of the nine-month stand-by arrangement (SBA) with the IMF and mentioned that a staff-level agreement (SLA) has been reached to ensure continued economic stability.

He also spoke about ongoing reforms in the energy sector, state-owned enterprises (SOEs), and taxation, emphasizing the government's initiative to incorporate under-taxed and untaxed entities into

the tax net. Muhammad Aurangzeb appreciated the PepsiCo's seed lab initiative and its impact in driving agricultural and overall economic growth.

Cars' sale increase 58% in July 2024

ISLAMABAD (APP): The sale of cars during the first month of the current financial year 2024-25 has increased by 58.21 percent as compared to the same month of last year, a recent data released by Pakistan Automobile Manufacturers Association (PAMA) said. According to the data, as many as 5,857 cars were sold during the month under review as opposed to 3,702 units in the same month of last year. The breakup figures

showed that 790 units of Honda Civic and City were sold during the corresponding month of the year 2024-25 as compared to the sale of 208 units last year.

Talking about the digitization in Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), the Minister discussed the integrating RAAST (the digital payment system) and NADRA (the national database and registration authority) to further improve efficiency.

Willemssen expressed appreciation for Pakistan's positive economic indicators and noted the growth in the financial sector.

Toyota Corolla and Pakistan cars sales also increased by 3.65 percent as it went up to 1,106 units from 1,067 units in July of the previous year. Suzuki Swift's sales also surged by 101.60 percent as its sale increased to 502 units from 249 units last year.

Marvay Nawaz says: After Qur'an & Sunnah, we take guidance from Imam of Kaaba & Imam of the Masjid-e-Nabawi

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Marvay Nawaz Sharif accorded a warm welcome to the Imam Masjid-e-Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair on his arrival at the Chief Minister's Office here on Monday.

The CM said, "On behalf of people of Punjab, I welcome your highness, Pakistan is your home." She also prayed for the health and long life of the Saudi King, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

The CM said the friendship of the Saudi royal family with her father Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is enviable. She added, "I follow Hazrat Umar Farooq's (RA) governance model. Hazrat Umar Farooq (RA) was a beacon of light for the rulers. Our powerhouse is in Madinah. I don't know much about

Lahore, but I know about every street in Madinah." CM Marvay Nawaz noted that the meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman along with Prime Minister Shabbaz Sharif was great. She added, "Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman wants to serve his people which is my mission as well. Prince Muhammad bin Salman is serving the people of Saudi Arabia with sincerity," she said.

The CM said, "After the Qur'an and Sunnah, we take guidance from Imam of Kaaba and Imam of the Prophet's Mosque in Saudi Arabia." She added listening to the recitation of Imam Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair, one's grief fades away and one's faith is revitalised. She underscored visiting Imam of Masjid-e-Nabawi

is a great honour for every Pakistani.

Imam Masjid-e-Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair expressed good wishes for the people of Punjab from the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and the people of Madinah. He thanked Chief Minister Marvay Nawaz Sharif for the warm welcome, and said that Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are like two pole stars shining together in the sky. He added Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are strategic friends, they were in the past and will be in the future. He highlighted Muhammad Nawaz Sharif is a friend of Pakistan, his leadership is a source of improvement and prosperity for Pakistan. "Maryam Nawaz Sharif is following in his footsteps.



PESHAWAR: Governor KP Faisal Karim Kundi addressing during his visit to Khyber Eye Foundation.

Governor Kundi thanks center to allocate funds for Lift Canal

PESHAWAR (APP): Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Faisal Karim Kundi on Monday paid thanks to federal government for allocating funds for the long-standing demand of the Chashma project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, designed to enhance agricultural productivity by diverting water from the arid lands of Dera Ismail Khan. This ambitious project involves lifting water from the barrage through a series of pumps and canals, providing a reliable water source to areas previously affected by water scarcity, he remarked.

The governor said that he always raised the issue of the lift bank canal at every forum. He said that the Chashma Lift Canal is a crucial irrigation project in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, designed to enhance agricultural productivity by diverting water from the arid lands of Dera Ismail Khan. This ambitious project involves lifting water from the barrage through a series of pumps and canals, providing a reliable water source to areas previously affected

Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times: Governor

Independent Report
LAHORE: Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan accorded a warm welcome to Imam Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair here today at Governor House Lahore. Saudi ambassador Nawaf bin Saeed al-Maliki was also present. Speaking on this occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said his presence is a matter of joy and honor for him. He said Pakistan and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoy long standing fraternal relations. Governor Punjab said that Saudi Arabia has always supported Pakistan in difficult times. Imam



LAHORE: Imam Masjid Nabawi Dr. Salah bin Muhammad Al-Budair meeting with Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House.

Punjab cabinet to approve LG law draft soon: Minister

LAHORE (APP): Provincial Government Minister Zeeshan Rafiq has said that the legislative process is underway to conduct local bodies elections in Punjab. There is ambiguity in the law made by the former government.

He was addressing a round table conference on the topic of local democratic governments. Civil society representatives, senior journalists and others also participated in the conference. The participants emphasized the need for early holding of local body elections in Punjab.

Minister Zeeshan Rafiq said that the Local Government Act 2019 called for the abolition of the Union Council, the basic unit of local bodies. He regretted that elected local bodies were not

Security plan released for Youm-e-Azadi

FAISALABAD (APP): The Police department has released security plan here on Monday for the celebration of 77th Youm-e-Azadi (Independence Day 2024). During a meeting, City Police Officer (CPO) Kamran Adil said that more than 4293 police officials including 54 Sub Inspectors (SIs), 634 Assistant Sub Inspectors (ASIs), 232 head constables and 3355 constables/lady constables would perform security duties across the district while 5 Superintendents Police (SPs) and 13 Deputy Superintendents Police (DSPs) were deputed to monitor the security duty. He said that one-wheeling, rash driving, underage driving, aerial firing and display of weapons had been banned and all the Station House Officers (SHOs) were directed to ensure thorough patrolling in their respective areas for implementation of this ban on Independence Day.

Meeting reviews preparations for I-Day celebrations

PESHAWAR (APP): A meeting held here on Monday with Chief Secretary of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Nadeem Aslam Chaudhary reviewed preparations for the 77th Independence Day celebrations.

Additional Chief Secretary Home and Tribal Affairs Department, Abid Majeed, relevant administrative secretaries, and other officials were present at the meeting, while commissioners and deputy commissioners participated via video link.

Police nab eight during crackdown against illegal arms

RAWALPINDI (APP): Police have arrested eight illegal arm holders and recovered arms, ammunition from their possession during crackdown here on Monday. According to police spokesman, Chakri police held Akhlaq and recovered 7mm rifle from his possession and a 12-bore rifle was found from Faizan while 01 pistol 30 bore was recovered from Usama. Similarly, Mandra police apprehended two illegal arm holders Shan and Haider and recovered 02 pistols 30-bore from their custody.

Committee met to address teachers' issues in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): Minister for Education Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Faisal Khan Tarakai on Monday chaired a meeting of the committee formed to address the demands and issues of teachers. The meeting was attended by Additional Secretary of Education Faiz Alam, Additional Director Dr. Muhammad Iqbal and other senior officials.

During the meeting, the education minister was briefed on the issues and demands presented by various teachers' unions. The minister reiterated the government's commitment to resolving the teachers' issues and stated that various committees have been formed to find appropriate solutions. He said the purpose of the meeting was to review the actions taken by these committees. He directed that a secretary-level meeting be convened within a week to resolve the issues related to the teachers' CP Fund.

This meeting will include the Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Law, Secretary of Establishment, and Secretary of Education, and the Education Minister will chair it.

International News

Gazans flee 'from death to death' as Khan Yunis hit

Monitoring Desk
KHAN YUNIS: Israel expanded evacuation orders in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip overnight, forcing tens of thousands of Palestinian residents and displaced families to leave in the dark as explosions from tank shelling reverberated around them.

Palestinians already displaced numerous times by Israeli air strikes were forced to flee Al-Halaa and other northern neighbourhoods of Khan Yunis on Sunday, a day after an Israeli airstrike on a school in Gaza City killed at least 90 Palestinians.

"We're exhausted. This is the 10th time I and my family have had to leave our shelter," said Zaki Mohammad, 28, who lives in the Hamad housing project in western Khan Yunis, where the occupants of two multi-floor buildings were ordered to leave.

"We are running from death to death."

An Israeli airstrike near the Khan Yunis market at the city centre killed four Palestinians and wounded several others, medics said, while residents reported that two multi-floor buildings were bombed, as smoke rose from areas where Israeli planes carried out attacks in the eastern and western parts of the city.

The forces pushed deeper into Al-Jalaa area that erstwhile was considered relatively safer zone. Al-Jalaa would become a "dangerous combat zone", the Israeli forces warned the remaining population of Palestinians as the army dropped leaflets containing fresh evacuation orders telling residents and refugees to leave the Khan Yunis area also.

"For your own safety, you must evacuate immediately to the newly created humanitarian zone. The area you are in is considered a dangerous combat zone," said the announcement posted on X.

Families gathered their meagre belongings and left the area, fearing fresh missile strikes and fighting. Crowds of people, mainly from the Hamad neighbourhood in Al-Jalaa, left with whatever they could lay their hands on, some loading mattresses, clothing and cooking utensils into pick-up trucks, while others simply walked with their bags.

Young men and women escorted elderly family members, while others tried to catch a ride to safer zones.

Head of the UN refugee agency for Palestinian refugees UNRWA Philippe Lazzarini said on X, "Just in the past few days, more than 75,000 people have been displaced in southwest Gaza."

Lazzarini said the new evacuation orders sent many people fleeing. "Some are only able to carry their children with them, some carry their whole lives in one small bag," he said.

"The people of Gaza are trapped and have nowhere to go."



Displaced Palestinians make their way as they flee Hamad City following an Israeli evacuation order, in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip.

Israeli minister tells US that large-scale Iranian attack expected, Axios reports

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on Sunday that Iran was making preparations for a large-scale military attack on Israel, Axios reporter Barak Ravid said in a post on X, citing a source with knowledge of the call.

In a statement on Monday, Gallant's ministry confirmed the call took place overnight. It said Gallant and Austin discussed operational and strategic coordination and the Israeli military's readiness in the face of Iranian threats.

Bomb blast in Kabul leaves one dead, 11 injured

Monitoring Desk
KABUL: A bomb blast on a minibus in a neighbourhood of Afghanistan's capital killed one person and wounded 11 others on Sunday, a Kabul police spokesman said.

The blast went off in Dasht-i-Barchi — home to many Shias, a historically persecuted community in Afghanistan and a frequent target of the Islamic State group that considers them heretics — in the western neighbourhood of Kabul.

"An IED (improvised explosive device) was planted on a minibus in the Dasht-i-Barchi area," Kabul police spokesman Khalid Zadrani said in a statement.

End UK riots, parents of murdered girl urge at her funeral

Monitoring Desk
SOUTHPORT: Hundreds of mourners gathered on Sunday in Southport for the funeral of a nine-year-old girl killed in last month's knife attack, which sparked more than a week of nationwide disorder.

The parents of one of three girls, who were murdered at a Taylor Swift-themed event, called for an end to the nationwide rioting that followed their deaths at an emotional funeral for their young daughter.

Family, friends, community leaders and emergency responders all joined Alice da Silva Aguiar's parents for an emotional ceremony at a Catholic church in the seaside town, nearly two weeks after the mass stabbing that shocked the country.

Vietnam's newly appointed party chief set to visit China next week

Monitoring Desk
HANOI: Vietnam's top leader To Lam will visit China next week in his first foreign trip since his appointment as general secretary of the ruling Communist Party earlier in August, three officials familiar with the matter told Reuters.

The move would confirm the close ties between the two communist-run neighbours, which have well developed economic and trade relations despite occasional clashing over boundaries in the energy-rich South China Sea, a crucial commercial waterway that Beijing claims almost in its entirety - irking several countries in the region. Lam, who is also the state president of the Southeast Asian nation, is planning to arrive in China on Aug 18.

US publicly announces submarine move to Middle East amid Israel-Iran tensions

Monitoring Desk
WASHINGTON: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has ordered the deployment of a guided missile submarine to the Middle East, the Pentagon said on Sunday, as the region braces for possible attacks by Iran and its allies after the killing of senior members of Hamas and Hezbollah.

While the USS Georgia, a nuclear-powered submarine, was already in the Mediterranean Sea in July, according to a US military post on social media, it was a rare move to publicly announce the deployment of a submarine.

In a statement after Austin spoke with his Israeli counterpart, the Pentagon said Austin had ordered the Abraham Lincoln strike group to accelerate its deployment to the region.

Helicopter crashes into roof of Cairns Hilton Double Tree hotel, killing pilot

Monitoring Desk
SYDNEY: A helicopter on an unauthorised flight crashed into the roof of a Hilton hotel in Cairns' northern tourist town of Cairns on Monday, killing the pilot and forcing hundreds of guests to evacuate after a blaze, authorities said.

US presidential candidate Kamala says she supports eliminating taxes on tips

Monitoring Desk
LAS VEGAS: US Vice President Kamala Harris told supporters in Nevada on Saturday she supported eliminating taxes on tips, taking a similar position to her rival Donald Trump in an effort to win over service workers, an important constituency in the state. Harris and her Democratic running mate, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz, wrapped up a multi-day tour of battleground states on Saturday with their stop in Nevada, a western state that could play a pivotal role in the November 5 presidential election.

"It is my promise to everyone here when I am president we will continue to fight for working families, including to raise the minimum wage and eliminate taxes on tips for service and hospitality workers," Harris said.

Harris said she would work to drive down consumer prices, vowing to "take on big corporations that engage in illegal price-gouging" and corporate landlords that unfairly raise rents on working families, as well as going after big pharmaceutical companies to drive drug prices lower.

Trump, who told a rally in Las Vegas in June that he would seek to end taxation of income from tips, accused Harris of stealing his policy proposal.

"Kamala Harris, whose 'Honeymoon' period is ENDING... just copied my NO TAXES ON TIPS Policy," Trump said on his Truth Social app.

"The difference is, she won't do it, she just wants it for Political Purposes!"

A Harris campaign official said her proposal would require legislation to be passed by Congress.

Bangladesh swears in new chief justice

Monitoring Desk
DHAKA: Bangladesh's new chief justice has been sworn into office after his predecessor, viewed as a loyalist of toppled premier Sheikh Hasina, quit following protester demands, a presidential official said on Sunday.

It is the latest in a string of fresh appointments to replace an old guard viewed as linked to the previous regime, ousted by the student-led uprising.

Syed Refaat Ahmed, the senior-most high court judge, was sworn into office by President Mohammed Shahabuddin, the president's press secretary Shiplu Zaman said.

"He became the 25th chief justice of Bangladesh," Zaman said.

Ahmed studied at the University of Dhaka, Oxford and Tufts University in the United States.

Ahmed's predecessor Obaiddul Hassan on Saturday became the latest to announce his departure, after hundreds of protesters gathered outside the court to demand he step down.

Appointed last year, Hassan earlier oversaw a much-criticised war crimes tribunal that ordered the execution of Hasina's opponents, and his brother was her long-time secretary.

Bangladesh's new interim government said on Sunday it was working to resolve attacks on Hindus and other religious minorities reported after ouster of former premier Sheikh Hasina. Hindus are the largest minority in Bangladesh. They are considered a steadfast support base for Hasina's party, the Awami League. After Hasina's abrupt resignation and flight abroad on Monday brought an end to her 15 years of rule, there were numerous reports of attacks against Hindu households, temples and businesses.

Sindh CM visits Indus Motor Manufacturing Hub, reaffirms support for Industry

KARACHI (INP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah visited Indus Motor Company's (IMC) manufacturing facility at Port Qasim Authority, emphasizing his government's commitment to fostering the large-scale production of hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) in Pakistan.

During his visit, Chief Minister Shah toured IMC's state-of-the-art facility and received a comprehensive briefing on the latest production processes, including the globally renowned Toyota Production System.

IMC, a key player in Pakistan's automotive industry, has been a driving force behind the "Make in Pakistan" initiative, promoting localization and introducing fuel-efficient, environmentally friendly vehicles. Notably, the company recently launched the 4th generation Corolla Cross, Pakistan's first locally manufactured HEV with the highest-ever local

content in the SUV category.

Chief Minister Shah was also briefed on IMC's recent export achievements, including the successful export of raw materials to Egypt, marking the company's integration into Toyota's Global Supply Chain. Additionally, IMC has commenced exporting vehicles, including the Toyota Fortuner, Hilux, and Corolla Cross models, to Oceanian countries. These milestones highlight IMC's commitment to advancing Pakistan's automotive industry on the global stage.

Expressing his admiration for IMC's efforts, Chief Minister Shah stated, "Indus Motor has set a benchmark in the automotive industry with its dedication to innovation and sustainability. Toyota is a trusted name in Pakistan, and the heavy financial investment in this state-of-the-art plant, along with the focus on

human capital, underscores the company's commitment to quality and safety." He added that the Sindh Government is keen to support initiatives that drive economic growth and promote environmental responsibility across the country. IMC CEO Ali Asghar Jamali welcomed the Chief Minister and emphasized the importance of stable policies for sustaining growth in the automotive sector. "It's an honour to have Chief Minister Murad Ali Shah visit our plant, which is a morale boost for the entire team. His presence reaffirms the government's support for industrial growth.

We are committed to contributing to the country's economic development and have recently begun exporting skilled engineering talent to Japan, positioning Pakistan as a hub for skilled labour in the global automotive industry."



ISLAMABAD: Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in a group photograph with other guests at the inaugural session of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development on 'Gender Empowerment and Green Economy'.

Pakistan, Türkiye hold political consultations

ISLAMABAD (APP): The 7th session of Pakistan-Türkiye Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) was held here on Monday.

Foreign Secretary Muhammad Syrus Sajjad Qazi and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye, Nuh Yilmaz, led their respective sides.

The two sides comprehensively reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation between Pakistan and

Türkiye including political relations, trade and investment, energy, security and defence, information technology, culture and tourism, education, and consular matters. Pakistan-Türkiye cooperation at multilateral and regional fora was also discussed.

Noting the importance of High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council (HLSCC), the two sides decided on early holding of its 7th session in Islamabad.

Preparations begin for Independence Day celebrations at Sindh Governor House

KARACHI (APP): Under the directives of Governor Sindh, Kamran Khan Tessori, preparations for a grand two-day Independence Day celebration have commenced at Governor House. The festivities will kick off on the night of August 13 with a spectacular fireworks display at midnight.

On August 14, renowned singer Atif Aslam will perform at the Independence Day celebration program.

The event will also feature Olympic gold medalist Arshad Nadeem, who will be honored by Governor Sindh with a cash prize of 2 million rupees in recognition of his achievement.

Senior officials have reviewed the arrangements for the various programs, including stage preparation and separate facilities for men and women, expressing their satisfaction with the plans.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Naseem Nagar are holding protest demonstration for acceptance of their demands, at Hyderabad press club.

Farooque Shaikhani express concern over escalating impacts of climate change on business community

HYDERABAD (APP): Muhammad Farooq Shaikhani, President, Hyderabad Chamber of Small Traders & Small Industry, has voiced grave concerns over the escalating impacts of climate change on the business community.

He highlighted that the intensifying patterns of climate change pose a significant threat to traders and industrialists alike. The disasters triggered by these changes not only endanger human lives but also inflict substantial damage on industries and businesses.

Shaikhani further emphasized that the financial stability of traders and industrialists is at risk due to the unpredictable nature of climate change. Extreme weather events such as floods, droughts, and rising temperatures severely impact agricultural production, disrupting the supply chains that businesses rely on.

Moreover, the increasing demand for energy and the growing scarcity of water are expected to present additional challenges for industrialists, further complicating the sustainability of their operations. Shaikhani has raised alarm over a recent World Bank report highlighting the severe challenges climate change poses to Pakistan's development and poverty alleviation efforts. The report underscores the gravity of the situation, revealing that climate-related disasters in 2022 alone claimed over 1,700 lives and displaced millions of people.

Shaikhani pointed out that despite the passage of the Pakistan Climate Change Act in 2017 and the establishment of the Ministry of Climate Change and Environmental Coordination under the direct oversight of Prime Minister Mian Shabbaz Sharif, meaningful action has yet to be taken.

President Zardari mourns passing of mountaineer Murad Sadpara

ISLAMABAD (APP): President Asif Ali Zardari on Monday expressed deep sorrow over the passing of Pakistani mountaineer Murad Sadpara.

In his condolence message to the bereaved family, the president offered his deepest sympathies on Sadpara's passing.

The president recognized Murad Sadpara's achievements in mountaineering and offered prayers for his forgiveness and strength for his grieving family.

SHC summons DIG investigation with report in recovery of missing persons case

KARACHI (Online): Sindh High Court (SHC) while directing JTs and Provincial Task Force (PTF) to hold meeting in recovery of missing persons case has summoned DIG Investigation with report on next hearing.

Over 15 petitions related to recovery of missing persons came up for hearing before SHC Monday.

Family members of missing persons and mother and father of missing person from Momin Abad appeared in the court.

Report on missing persons was presented in the court. As per report the missing persons Farman Elahi and Muhammad Taha were wanted by police.

11 'beggars' offloaded from Saudi Arabia-bound flight

KARACHI (INP): The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) has offloaded 11 alleged beggars in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims from Saudi Arabia-bound flight at Karachi airport.

According to the FIA, the group, consisting of 11 persons, including 8 women, was initially traveling on Umrah visas on fake return tickets and hotel booking.

The FIA officials during the immigration process questioned the passengers who confessed that they were going to visit the KSA to seek alms.

The FIA Karachi circle arrested the passengers for further interrogation and legal action. In a similar incident that happened last year, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) had offloaded 24 alleged beggars in the disguise of Umrah pilgrims from Saudi Arabia-bound flight at Multan airport.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah in meeting with CEO Indus Motors, Ali Asghar during his visit to Indus Motors, in Karachi.

Pakistan's Parliament championed critical legislation on gender violence, women empowerment: Speaker NA

ISLAMABAD (APP): Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq on Monday said the path to sustainable and inclusive development sans women empowerment and gender equality was elusive whereas the Parliament of Pakistan had championed critical legislation barring gender violence and supporting women empowerment in the country.

In his keynote address at the inaugural session of the two-day meeting of the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (AFPPD) on "Gender Empowerment and Green Economy", the Speaker underscored that the presence of high-level dignitaries depicted great leadership and partnership

of regional parliamentarians in achieving gender equality and women empowerment goals.

As many as 15 Asian countries' parliamentarians and others from Pakistan, diplomatic community, high level political figures, government officials, international non-governmental organisations (INGOs), members of international donor organisations, and academia participated in the event.

Speaker National Assembly, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq lauded PM's aide Romina Khurshid Alam for her tireless efforts in organizing the international meeting with a very timely and pertinent agenda synchronized with the national sustainable development goals.

Interior Minister meets Chairman MQM and Secretary General JUP

ISLAMABAD (APP): Federal Minister for Interior Mohsin Naqvi held separate meetings with Chairman MQM Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui and JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani. During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, the overall political situation of the country and promoting religious harmony and brotherhood were discussed.

Mohsin Naqvi and Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui strongly condemned the vicious propaganda against state institutions. Federal Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that state institutions are a proud asset of the country, and the organized propaganda against state institutions is like betraying the country. He un-

derlined that no one will be allowed to run a nefarious campaign against the state institutions.

Interior Minister pointed out that any attempt to hinder Pakistan's development and people's prosperity will not succeed. He said that personal interests have no value in the face of national interests. Khalid Maqbool Siddiqui said that everyone needs to unite and move forward for the sake of the country.

During meeting with JUP Secretary General Owais Noorani, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said that JUP has always spoken for the best interest of the country. He reiterated that everyone needs to move forward by joining their hands together.



KARACHI: Karachi Development Corporation Director General, Syed Shujaat Hussain is presiding over a meeting of senior officials held at his office in the Civic Center building in Karachi.

Illegal appointments in PSO reference: Shahid Abbasi others acquitted

KARACHI (Online): All the accused including former Prime Minister (PM) Shahid Khaqan Abbasi have been acquitted by Accountability Court (AC) Karachi in illegal appointments in PSO reference. The court accepted the plea from NAB for withdrawing the reference of illegal appointments in PSO. The reference related to illegal appointment of Managing Director (MD) PSO came up for hearing before AC Karachi Monday.

The court ordered to send back the reference to NAB. In addition to Shahid Khaqan Abbasi the others who have been acquitted are former MD PSO Sheikh Imran ul Haq, former petroleum secretary, Arshid Mirza and former MD PSO Yaqoob Sattar.

Later talking to the media outside AC Karachi, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi said it should be happy day for us today. NAB has said after 4 years and 2 months that it withdraws the case.



KARACHI: Pakistani students celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day ahead of Independence Day in Karachi.

Youth of Sindh showcase remarkable talent: CM

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah has said that August 12 is celebrated as International Youth Day worldwide.

In connection with International Youth Day, he said that the youth of our country especially Sindh were talented. CM Murad said that the Pakistan People's Party under the leadership of four young chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari would bring prosperity to the whole country.

He said that the country could achieve progress with the talents and effective role of the youth. He said that the Pakistan People's Party had always encouraged the youth. He said that the Sindh government had taken many steps for the development and capacity building of the youth.

Commissioner imposes ban on driving tractors having disc harrows/gobals without tyres on roads

HYDERABAD (APP): The Commissioner Hyderabad Bilal Ahmed Memon has taken notice of driving tractors having disc harrows/gobals without tyres on newly constructed roads in Dadu district causing damages.

The Commissioner while exercising his powers conferred under section 144(6) Cr.PC has imposed a ban on driving tractor disc harrows/gobals without tyres throughout the Hyderabad Division for 90 days till 23-03-2024.

In another notification, the Divisional Commissioner has imposed ban on illegal tree cutting and movement of wood for 90 days and strict action would be taken against the violators.

First tight gas project of Pakistan starts production

KARACHI (INP): Production has been started by the Oil and Gas Development Company Limited (OGDCL) from first tight gas project of Pakistan located in Sindh's Sujawal district. A spokesperson of the OGDCL said on Monday that the Northwest Well-1 in Sujawal was producing 1.5 million cubic feet of gas per day. The company said that 1.5 million cubic feet of gas was being injected into the Sui Southern Network.

The statement further stated that the OGDCL was committed to increase the energy resources of the country. Meanwhile, the OGDCL in a notice to the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) on Monday also shared the development.

"OGDCL is pleased to report the commencement of early commercial production of tight gas from Nur West Well-1. OGDCL holds 100% working interest in Nur Development & Production Lease (D&PL).

Ahsan stresses upon peace, stability, reforms for national success

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Planning, Development and Special Initiatives Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Monday emphasized upon the crucial role of peace, political stability, policy continuity, and continuous reforms in achieving national success.

Speaking at an event marking the International Day of Youth, organized by the Prime Minister's Youth Programme, he stressed that these interconnected factors were vital for driving growth and prosperity in Pakistan, urging the youth to recognize the importance of a stable and peaceful environment for the country's progress.

"This is not a matter of political ideology, but a question of the future and well-being of 240 million people and youth of Pakistan," he added.

"The Parliament of Pakistan became the first public building for securing net metering license to promote green economy and renewables. The Speaker National Assembly's residence and the Parliament building were first converted over solar energy when there was no public building with solar power in the country," he mentioned.

ATTOCK: President, Asif Ali Zardari offering Fateha for Lieutenant Uzair Mehmoood Malik Shaheed, during his visit to the Shaheed's home, in Attock.

Finance minister chairs CCoSOEs meeting

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Finance & Revenue Senator Muhammad Aurangzeb on Monday presided over a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on State-Owned Enterprises (CCoSOEs).

The meeting was attended by Minister for Housing & Works Mian Riaz Hussain Pirzada, Minister for Maritime Affairs Qaiser Ahmed Sheikh, Minister for Power Sardar Awais Ahmad Khan Leghari, Minister for Law & Justice Azam Nazeer Tarar, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Governor SBP, Chairman

SECP, and other senior officers from the relevant ministries and divisions.

The Cabinet Committee approved the proposals of Finance Division and Power Division for the appointment of candidates as independent directors/ chairman on the boards of ZTBL and NTDC respectively.

The Committee also considered the proposal presented by the Ministry of Housing & Works and decided to categorize Pakistan Housing Authority - Foundation (PHA-F) as essential with further directions to present a revised plan of PHA-F to the Committee.

Dutch envoy calls on Asif, express willingness for constructive bilateral ties

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands, Henny Fokel De Vries called on Minister for Defence, Defence Production and Aviation Khawaja Muhammad Asif here Monday and expressed her willingness to promote constructive bilateral ties in various sectors.

The Federal Minister emphasized that Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Republic of Netherlands and wants to further enhance defence collaboration, a

news release said. Latest security situation along Pak-Afghan border and Pakistan's commitment to peace and stability in the region came under discussion.

He also impressed upon Pakistan's commitment to eradication of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of bilateral relations and explored various possibilities of further strengthening political, economic ties with focus on global and regional issues.



HYDERABAD: Fire fighters extinguishing fire during rescue operation after fire broke out incident due to electric short circuit at a general store located on Lajpat road in Hyderabad.

Education, health, employment opportunities to the youth remains top priority of BBZ: Arslan

SUKKUR (APP): Spokesperson to Sindh Government, Barrister Arslan Sheikh has said that provision of education and health facilities as well as employment opportunities to the youth is one of the top priorities of the PPP chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari.

Talking to APP in connection with International Youth Day here on Monday, he said that empowering the youth in the true sense and making them partners in the affairs of the country is the manifesto of the PPP, and the people's governments have always introduced youth friendly policies.

Arslan said Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the first political leader who mobilised the youth across the country, while Chairman PPP Bilawal Bhutto Zardari opened new avenues for the advancement

of the youth by providing education and employment opportunities. "PPP is the only Party whose governments established the largest number of education institutions in Pakistan, he added.

He said that the PPP-led government of Sindh ensured the representation of the youth by allocating special seats in all local bodies, he added that the youth of Pakistan were now determined to expose the false claimants of jobs and employment, who are trying to exploit them and destroying their dreams.

He said that the youth are the future of the country. He said that a large part of Pakistan's population consisted of youth, therefore the dream of national development could not be fulfilled without equipping the youth with quality education.