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Reaffirms commitment to thwart hostile forces Pak Army to continue steadfast support, technical assistance to LEAs against terrorism: COAS

COAS appreciates officers for high preparedness to counter threats; Role of KP's people in maintaining peace acknowledged by Gen Munir; Army chief honours martyrs by laying floral wreath at Shuhada Monument.

RAWALPINDI (APP): Services Public Relations Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Syed Asim Munir on Tuesday during his visit to Wana, South Waziristan District emphasized that Pakistan Army would continue to provide steadfast support and technical assistance to law enforcement agencies (LEAs), particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Police, to enhance their capacity.

The Army Chief visited Wana, South Waziristan District, where he received a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, and development initiatives, an Inter

Services Public Relations (ISPR) news release said. The COAS paid heartfelt tribute to the security forces and law enforcement agencies (LEAs) who have made ultimate sacrifices in the line of duty. The COAS also acknowledged the pivotal role of the people of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in maintaining peace and advancing various projects under the South Waziristan Integrated Development Plan.

He underscored Pakistan Army's dedication towards leveraging its resources for the prosperity and development of the people of KP.

During his interaction with officers and troops,

the COAS appreciated the high level of preparedness and exceptional morale to counter hostile threats. He reaffirmed Pakistan Army's unwavering commitment to thwarting the nefarious designs of hostile forces and their facilitators.

Furthermore, the COAS expressed gratitude for the tribal elders' invaluable support in combating terrorism and their unwavering backing of Pakistan Army.

Upon arrival, the COAS honoured the martyred by laying wreath at the Shuhada Monument. The COAS was warmly received at Wana by Commander Peshawar Corps.



SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir received a comprehensive briefing on the prevailing security situation, ongoing counter-terrorism operations, and development initiatives during his visit to Wana in South Waziristan.

Durable peace in world not possible without permanent resolution of Palestine, Kashmir disputes: Tarar

NEW YORK (APP): Federal Minister for Information, Broadcasting, National Heritage and Culture Attaullah Tarar said on Tuesday that durable peace in the world was not possible without permanent resolution of Palestine and Kashmir issues.

Talking to media outside the United Nations General Assembly, he said that Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif had raised both issues at all international fora.

He said on Palestine issue, the PM had stated that war crimes were being committed in the area,

genocide of armless Palestinians was being committed and the world should take notice and bring the perpetrator Israel to justice.

He said the Prime Minister had also made clear that Pakistan wanted restoration of pre-1967 borders in which Jerusalem should be the capital of Palestine.

"We want immediate ceasefire in Gaza and accountability of the aggressor Israel for war crimes and genocide being committed in Palestine", he remarked.

Tarar said that Pakistan had dispatched humanitarian aid through ships and C130s. More-

over Pakistan had offered to give admission to Palestinian medical students in Pakistani institutions, so that they could complete their education without any hindrance.

He said the Kashmir issue would figure in the Prime Minister's engagements in the United Nations. Besides, he said climate change was a major issue for Pakistan which contributed only 2 per cent of the gas emissions but had to bear the brunt of adverse effects of the climate change.



Federal Minister for Communications, Abdul Aleem Khan being received by Chinese Transport Minister Li Xiapeng in Beijing.

81 industries shut down in 5 years due to electricity crisis: Sindh PA informed

KARACHI (INP): The Sindh Assembly was informed that 81 industrial units, including 10 textile mills and five sugar mills, have shut down over the past five years due to the persistent electricity crisis.

In response to queries from lawmakers, Parliamentary Secretary of Industries and Commerce Department, Ali Ahmed, told the house that the provincial government is extending cooperation to industrialists.

However, Leader of Opposition Ali Khurshidi expressed dissatisfaction with the responses, seeking information on the number of industrial units closed and new ones established between 2018 and 2023. Local Government Minister Saeed Ghani intervened, clarifying that the question pertained to the

labor department. Ahmed reported that 6,856 industrial units remain operational across the province, with 915 new units established. Among the closed units are 10 textile mills and a cement factory.

The assembly unanimously approved the Sindh Control of Narcotic Substances Bill, 2024, aiming to regulate narcotics, synthetic drugs, and psychotropic substances.

The amended bill allows narcotics control officers to conduct searches and arrests without warrants, granting them the power to break open doors and remove obstacles during raids.

As per the new amendment, officers must be of at least inspector rank to conduct searches and arrests.

President emphasises expanding BISP network

ISLAMABAD (APP): Chairperson of Benazir Income Support Programme (BISP) Robina Khalid called on President Asif Ali Zardari on Tuesday and briefed him in detail about the programme.

President Zardari emphasised for enhancing the BISP's network to benefit the maximum number of people from the marginalised communities, a President House press release said. He also appreciated the BISP's performance in supporting the poor people, eligible for the facility.

'IPP owners asked to revise PPAs or face consequences'

ISLAMABAD (INP): Task Force on Independent Power Producers (IPPs) has completed its work.

According to details, owners of four independent power producers (IPPs) set up under the 1994 policy and another, established under the 2002 policy, have been warned of consequences if they don't terminate the power purchase agreements (PPAs) voluntarily, the sources said.

The task force has asked the owners of the IPPs to end capacity charges payment and charge against the power supplied to the government only.



KARACHI: Peoples Party (PPP) Chairman, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari addresses to lawyers during ceremony organized by Sindh High Court Bar Association, held in Karachi.

President Asif Zardari says Newspapers play a vital role in raising political awareness, informing citizens about their rights and responsibilities

Newspaper reading key to combating fake news: PM Shahbaz

ISLAMABAD (INP): President Asif Ali Zardari has extended his heartfelt felicitations to the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on National Newspaper Readership Day to be marked on September 25 (Wednesday).

In his message on the Day, the president said, "I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) on National Newspaper Readership Day. Newspapers play a vital role in raising political awareness and informing citizens about their rights and responsibilities, besides providing news and helping citizens make informed decisions."

President Asif Ali Zardari said, "On this newspaper readership day, I would like to urge newspapers to play their role in promoting moral, ethical, and democratic values in our society. They should educate the people about socio-economic issues as well as promote tolerance, inter-faith harmony, patriotism, civic responsibility, and respect for human rights."

He further stated, "In today's fast-paced digital age, where misinformation and fake news can go viral rapidly, the role of newspapers has become even more critical. Newspapers need to provide accurate and well-researched news to discourage fake news by using modern Information Technology. Their role in promoting facts over sensationalism is essential to counter the spread of false information."

Meanwhile Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif has urged every individual to adopt the habit of newspaper reading citing it as a key to combating fake news and fostering a culture of responsible citizenship.

The prime minister, in his message on the National Newspaper Day being observed on Wednesday (September 25), also called for strengthening the role of newspapers in the daily life and support the invaluable institution so it could continue to serve the nation with integrity and dedication.

He said the power of a well-informed society could not be underestimated.



ISLAMABAD: The Chairperson Benazir Income Support Program (BISP), Rubina Khalid, called on the President Asif Ali Zardari, at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Saeed Ghani says Pakistani future generations should know of sacrifices, struggle of MRD martyrs

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Local Government Minister, Saeed Ghani, has said the Movement for Restoration of Democracy was launched in 1983 to get rid of the tyrannical rule of the then-military dictator in the country. The Local Government Minister stated this on Tuesday while speaking in the Sindh Assembly on a resolution presented by the PPP's lawmaker, Ghulam Qadir Chandio, to pay tribute to the martyrs of MRD in Sindh in 1983. He lamented that youth who were currently associated with the political process didn't have an idea about the importance of MRD.

He told the house that various political parties including JUI, JUP, ANP, PDP, Awami Tehreek, Quami Mahaz Azadi, and Tehreek-e-Istiqal had joined hands with the PPP to form the MRD in 1983. He said the formation of this alliance had shown that the PPP's leadership had set aside their differences for the revival of democracy and progress of the country. He recalled that many of the political parties, which were part of the MRD had been earlier together on the platform of the PNA to wage a united movement against the then government of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977. Ghani told the house that MRD was a countrywide movement but the struggle had a special emphasis in Sindh that has now become an important part of Pakistan's political history.

He said the MRD had gained salience among the peaceful movements of that era in South Asia. He said the peace-loving political activists and ordinary people had taken part in the MRD to get rid of the regime of an autocratic dictator in uniform.

He said the school curriculum should include content related to MRD so that the coming generation could know of the sacrifices rendered by peaceful political activists to restore democracy in the country.



KARACHI: President of Awami National Party Aimal Wali Khan addressing journalists during Meet the press at KPC.

CM Sindh chairs meeting to review progress on Karachi Safe City Project

KARACHI (APP): Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah on Tuesday said that the work done so far was a significant step toward establishing Karachi as a safer city through enhanced surveillance and response capabilities.

"I have got the work on the long-awaited Safe City Project in Karachi, Phase-I significantly accelerated, he said in a meeting here at CM House. Minister Home Ziaul Hassan Lanjar, Secretary to CM Raheem Shaikh and others were present on the occasion.

The IG Police briefed the CM on the project's progress and informed him that 1300 Cameras will be installed at different locations. It was disclosed that all 300 pole site surveys and 18 Point of Presence (POP)

site surveys have been completed. Under the civil work, Right-of-Way (RoW) approvals from all relevant stakeholders have been obtained and foundation excavation and digging have been completed at 200 pole sites. The CM was told that 50 poles have been installed so far, with ongoing work at the remaining sites. The CM was informed that the Control Room and Data Center equipment, along with a Video Wall, have been installed at the Central Police Office (CPO), receiving live monitoring through 35 cameras at 7 locations.

As far as equipment is concerned, the CM was told that all shipments [of equipment] from Hikvision, Huawei, Vertiv, POP sites, and Optical Fiber Cables (OFC) have been received and safely stored.



NEW YORK: Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif attending the inaugural session of United Nations General Assembly, New York.

Bilawal vows to introduce judicial reforms in Constitution

KARACHI (INP): Chairman Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) and MNA Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on Tuesday vowed to introduce judicial reforms in Constitution.

"We will implement the Charter of Democracy," addressing lawyers at the Sindh Bar Council, People's Party chairman said.

He said constitutional legislation and lawmaking could not be made by the court. "The constitutional court has been necessary and a compulsion," Bilawal Bhutto said.

"Think, you are sitting in court for the purpose that responsibility is not being fulfilled," he said. "We want to provide justice to common people," he said.

"There are 15% cases related to the constitution and law that take 90 per-

cent time of court. The Federal Constitutional Court will hear the constitutional and political cases.

"The judges had warned to throw the 18th Amendment. The 19th Amendment in the constitution was passed under duress," Bilawal Bhutto said. "We want to empower the judicial system for immediate justice," he said.

People's Party chairman said that the chief justice of the federal constitutional court will be nominated on rotation. "Every province will get its representative as chief justice of the court on rotation," he added.

He said the constitutional court and judicial reforms are not a new idea. "It is necessary for the supremacy of the constitution to ensure equal rights to all provinces," he said.

Larkana industrial zone given status of SEZ: Jam Ikramullah Dharejo

Independent Report

KARACHI: Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo has said that Larkana Industrial Zone has been given the status of Economic Special Zone for the development of Larkana and its surrounding areas. He said this while speaking on the occasion of an agreement ceremony between the SITE Government of Sindh, Special Economic Zone and the Govern-



ment of Pakistan in his office today. He further said that with the establishment of the economic zone, wide opportunities have been made available to the engaged local industrialists to set up industries.

In a ceremony held in Karachi, the site association declared the Larkana industrial zone as a special economic zone after the completion of the infrastructure construction and development works. After getting the status of SEZ, Larkana Industrial Zone was completely handed over to SEZA.

The industrial zone project started in 2017 has been completed in 2021 at a cost of more than Rs. 1366 million rupees. 94 industrial plots of one acre in the five hundred acre project. Commercial plots on 1000 yards are also included.

Provincial Minister for Industries and Commerce Jam Ikramullah Dharejo said that all the basic facilities were available in the economic zone. Local and national entrepreneurs have a golden opportunity to expand their business and start new industries.

Daily Voice of Masses Independent

Reserved seats

The verdict is in. But does that make a difference? The Supreme Court's detailed reasoning for its decision in the reserved seats case was finally made public on Monday, after weeks of clamouring for its release. However, the judgment, which carries the weight of a full court, was promptly rejected by the PML-N. The ruling party described it on X as "a political decision" issued by "eight specific judges in violation of their oath, to give political benefits to a party that spreads chaos and division".

It seemed like a knee-jerk reaction to the 70 pages of meticulous reasoning for why 11 of the 13 judges who heard the case, including the chief justice of Pakistan, agreed that the PTI had been wronged by the ECP and deserved relief, and also why eight judges differed from the other three on what relief would be suitable.

The operative part of the judgment had, it may be recalled, been issued much earlier in July. After a first reading of the detailed reasoning, it is still difficult to understand why the ECP and government reacted so adversely to it from the get-go. The Supreme Court has, in fact, unanimously rejected two important arguments presented by the Sunni Ittehad Council and the PTI: i.e. the SIC was entitled to reserved seats based on the strength of its parliamentary party despite not having directly won a seat, and that reserved seats could not be distributed to parties other than the SIC even if it was not to be given any.

In fact, the verdict makes clear that it was the ECP's original sin — not allowing candidates to contest as PTI's nominees, in violation of the Constitution and the law — that necessitated intervention and a prescription for rectification from the court.

The judgment explains that the court considered the dispute as being larger than just a disagreement between two parties, and that it acted to protect the rights of the electorate, not a particular political party. Based on that, the government's position seems rather weak. Has it been risking contempt merely because the Supreme Court pointed out that the ECP did something wrong and instructed, as is its mandate, that justice be done? Moreover, how does the government morally justify its position considering that it is a direct beneficiary of the actions struck down as unlawful and unconstitutional by the court? Perhaps if this detailed verdict had been issued sooner, much of the controversy that has surrounded it may have been avoided. However, now that it is in hand, the government should either file for a review or accept it as is. Refusing to implement it is a dangerous strategy; it may unravel the entire edifice of the state.

Practice & Procedure

Sameer Khosa

Recent moves by the government leave no doubt that the judiciary is facing one of the most serious onslaughts in its history. Although attempts to tame the courts have been afoot for a while, as seen by the letter written by six judges of the Islamabad High Court, these have only met with mixed success. Various courts in the country have continued to pass strict observations in cases of enforced disappearances, granted bail to persons that the state is unwilling to release, and zeroed in on the phenomenon of audio leaks. Most significantly, a 13-member bench of the Supreme Court denied the government its extra reserved seats in parliament.

Faced with a judiciary refusing to declare total submission, the government first attempted to pass a constitutional amendment proposing widespread changes to the structure of the judiciary. Having failed to achieve that for the time being, the president promulgated the Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Amendment Ordinance, 2024.

The contents of the proposed constitutional amendment are now well known: all the significant constitutional powers of the Supreme Court would stand transferred to a federal constitutional court (FCC), which would effectively be handpicked by the government. Judges of the high courts would face being transferred to another court without their consent. The powers of the high courts in matters related to laws in relation to national security would stand eliminated. The government would also have the power to bypass the senior most judge in appointing the chief justice.

Now, the ordinance issued by the president demonstrates that the government remains undeterred. Through the ordinance, the government has changed the composition of the committee that forms benches and fixes cases under the original Supreme Court (Practice and Procedure) Act, 2023. The committee originally consisted of the chief justice and two senior-most judges of the court. Now it will consist of the chief justice, the next most senior judge, and a judge picked by the chief justice.

The promulgation of the ordinance is problematic in several respects. For one, the Constitution does not envisage the president as a lawmaker except in exceptional circumstances when parliament cannot be summoned. No exceptional circumstances seem apparent given that the original committee was functional and available.

For another, it seems to be yet another attempt to interfere in the functioning of the judiciary. In recent weeks, the chief justice has found himself out-voted on matters that are important to the government's ability to pass the constitutional amendment. In particular, the chief justice unsuccessfully attempted to fix a review petition related to the reserved seats verdict (related to floor crossing). In case either of these review cases is successful, the government's ability to pass a constitutional amendment would greatly increase (either through reserved seats, or defections).

Instead of respecting the Supreme Court and the committee, the government decided to modify the committee to strengthen the chief justice so that it could change outcomes for itself. It is a dangerous

game for the government to contract and expand the powers of the chief justice at will depending only on its preferred temporary outcomes.

Unfortunately, instead of sticking to the original committee, within hours the chief justice changed the formation of the committee by skipping the third and fourth most senior judges of the court. The composition of the committee is particularly important at this time because if the government can successfully pass the constitutional amendment, then any challenge to the decision of this committee as to whether it is heard, when, and by whom. In effect, the chief justice would now control this process.

Add to this the fact that, according to an official press release of the Supreme Court, the government already made its interest in extending the tenure of the chief justice clear several months ago. The clear intent is, therefore, to ensure that the chief justice, who himself potentially stands to be one of the intended beneficiaries of this whole exercise (in the form of an extended tenure at the FCC), can control any challenge to the proposed amendment. Last year, when the government was in no mood to implement the Supreme Court's decision related to elections in Punjab and KP, it brought in the Practice and Procedure Act to thwart the chief justice. This year, when it is in no mood to implement the reserved seats case, it has brought in the ordinance to retain the chief justice's control.

Behind all of the government's claims, there is only one real aim: subjugating the Supreme Court. — Courtesy Dawn

Society's safety net

David Walmsley

A record number of newsrooms have signed up for World News Day 2024, recognising the positive influence of journalism the world over.

More than 600 newsrooms and media associations across all continents join to bring awareness to the purpose of journalism, a trade that is under constant attack.

It's a day to pause, and reflect on the importance of independent and often brave journalists who make a difference in their communities and countries, by providing the proof that leads to the truth.

Too often, he or she who shouts loudest on social media seems to be the newsmaker of the day, overshadowing the professional reporters and editors trained and determined to stand behind everything they publish.

Responsible journalism is a tough business when done properly. It necessarily confronts the easy, repetitive, and instant swirl of polemicists and propagandists determined to derail life to fit agendas that are often based on uncertainty and exclusion.

Photographing events that happen, reporting out the facts; beginning with incomplete information and building a more complete file over time and ultimately ensuring, in the final edit, that the facts are placed squarely into the public discourse, is the business of mainstream media. It is inefficient yet is a timeless tradition without parallel.

Professionals fight back against the hackneyed idea that belonging to the mainstream is somehow inferior to being extreme.

World News Day (Sept 28) is a day of

awareness, to better explain journalism to the public at large.

It is also a moment to provide room for our audiences and highlight how their meeting a journalist improved their life. How, perhaps, finally, they were listened to.

Or to reflect on the contributions of a local newspaper to the body politic, or the cost of liberty for a reporter detained for no reason — other than that she could be — by those with armies at their disposal.

Amid the growing coarseness of public debate, the pride of independence journalism stands as a source of optimism and belief.

Often at significant personal cost, whistleblowers entrust journalists with secrets. Business, politicians and others in power increasingly refuse to meet reporters or explain themselves — but that doesn't mean they are unaccountable. The rot is still exposed by individuals.

This past year I met a source determined to get the truth out, but the conversations took place in a hot-tub to prove I was not wearing a listening wire, and, on another occasion, in my underwear for the final interview. The story was worth it all, but I couldn't have known it would be when I started out on the four-month odyssey.

That's the romance of the business that recruits and repays the indefatigable.

Interest groups laden with bias threaten economic punishment: 'I'll cancel my subscription' or 'we'll pull our advertising'. Perhaps next year we will list those people who act that way.

So far, news organisations take the hit, and don't make it public. But it is all an attempt to interfere with editorial independence, and it is wrong.

Attacks on journalists — including murder — run at record highs.

Journalism was not created for the messenger to be shot. But, while you can kill the journalist, you can't kill the story. Others will take it on. Look at journalists in Mexico or Iran if you haven't received your daily dose of inspiration. The rate of impunity, killing journalists and not being arrested, creeps toward 100 per cent in some countries, but still the stories mount up.

A great miracle exists in the business of journalism: facts are not suppressible.

Those in need understand it. And it is those least in need who fight us most: the powerful, terrified their world can't be entirely controlled.

That's the magic of World News Day.

As you talk to friends, and consider your community, village, town or the wider world, think about what you have learned today. There is a fair bet journalism was involved. The storytellers, who come from your community, tell the facts, no matter how uncomfortable that can be.

That is why, unarmed and living in your community, they are targeted, hassled, belittled, threatened.

And it is why they respond with more facts, more answers, more independence of thought — and maintain the link between you and the wider world.

Journalists are a bridge as we build the future, supported by the capstone of our audience, who are as loyal and determined as the reporter and the editor. Together, on World News Day, if it feels at times that the vestiges of hope are falling away, remember the safety net of journalism is there. — Courtesy Dawn

Commerce News

Commerce Minister reaffirms commitment to deepening collaborations with Belarus

ISLAMABAD (APP): Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's strong commitment to deepening its collaboration with Belarus across all sectors to further promote bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries.

Addressing the 7th Session of the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation, Kamal stated that Pakistan and Belarus have long shared a bond rooted in mutual respect, trust, and common interests, which has evolved into a more

meaningful partnership. The minister emphasized that the Pakistan-Belarus Joint Ministerial Commission serves as a vital platform for reinforcing longstanding ties, adding that since the establishment of the Joint Ministerial Commission, the two countries have made significant progress in strengthening bilateral relations.

Jam Kamal Khan further said that the Pakistan-Belarus trade volume during the last financial year (2023-24) was recorded at \$34.88 million, with Pakistan exporting goods valued at \$0.39 million to Belarus and importing goods worth

\$34.49 million from Belarus. He also stressed the need to prioritize expanding trade volumes by exploring new markets and diversifying their export portfolios, noting that the role of forums such as the Joint Business Council is critical.

However, he acknowledged that considerable potential remains to be explored for enhancing bilateral investments in various sectors, including agriculture, health, trade, tourism, and cooperation in addressing the impacts of climate change.

The minister highlighted the tremendous op-

U.S. Ambassador visits SCCI aimed to enhance U.S., Pak bilateral trade relations

SIALKOT (APP): U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Donald Blome and U.S. Consul General Lahore Ms. Kristin K. Hawkins visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), marking the Ambassador's second visit to the historic industrial hub. The visit aimed to enhance U.S.-Pakistan bilateral trade relations and explore opportunities for collaboration in various sectors, including clean energy and climate action.

President SCCI Abdul Ghafoor Malik welcomed the U.S. delegation and reiterated the importance of

boosting trade relations. Malik said that the visit of Ambassador Blome for second time to Sialkot is a testament to the importance the U.S. attaches to this industry city. He stressed the need for enhanced business collaborations between U.S. based companies and the industry of Sialkot and discussed the immense potential for further joint ventures between U.S. and Pakistani businesses.

On the occasion the President acknowledged the support of the U.S. government to facilitate Pakistan's transition to 60% renewable energy by 2030.



ISLAMABAD: Belarusian delegation headed by Minister for Energy Aleksei Kushnarenko is meeting with the delegation of Ministry of Economic Affairs under the leadership of Minister Ahad Cheema.



RAWALPINDI: Coordinator to Prime Minister on Climate Change, Romina Khurshid Alam inaugurating a solar energy project of a beverage company.

WEF official urges

Pakistan to seek financial, technical assistance from world bodies for renewable energy

FAISALABAD (APP): Pakistan should seek financial and technical assistance from world organizations including the UN, IMF and WEF to switch over from fossil fuel to clean renewable energy in order to contribute its productive role in minimizing ill impacts of Green House Gaseous (GHG) emission, said Hassan Abulenein, Associate Director World Economic Forum (WEF).

Addressing an online meeting with the R & D department of the Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FCCI), he said that WEF

has already chalked out a comprehensive strategy to phase out hazardous fuel which has posed serious threat to the earth and environment. He mentioned climate change and increase in global warming which have become a key threat to life and may cause the extinction of a large number of endangered species of animals and plants.

He appreciated the research work conducted by the R & D department of the FCCI on environment preservation and said that we could collaborate to carve out a workable strategy to promote renewable

energy in Pakistan.

Engineer Ahmad Hassan Convener FCCI Standing Committee on R&D and former Vice President FCCI said that WEF, UN, IMF and other global organizations have already given a plan to cut use of fossil fuel by 50% by the year 2030. He said that Pakistan is trapped by the IPPs which are producing costly electricity by using fossil fuel. "We should exploit the global agreements including UN sustainable development goals and Paris agreement to get rid of the harsh conditionalities of the IPPs."

SNGPL severs 16 more connections, five illegal extensions

MULTAN (APP): In a series of rigorous operations, the Sui Northern Gas Pipeline Limited (SNGPL) UFG Control Task Force, raided and disconnected 16 more gas meters, including one from a private housing colony and dismantled five illegal gas extensions.

Acting on directions from the General Manager,

the team intensified its efforts to curb gas theft and illegal usage. The team led by Task Force In-charge Muhammad Jameel Shaheen and Senior Associate Engineer Muhammad Yaqoob Khan, in an operation on Bahawalpur road, found nine consumers supplying gas to an unauthorized private colony.

Iranian envoy calls on FBR chairman

ISLAMABAD (APP): Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan Dr Reza Amiri Moghaddam Tuesday called on Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Chairman Rashid Mahmood Langrial. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters pertaining to Customs, cross-border trade and management for smooth flow of bilateral trade between the two countries, said a news release.

NA Panel directs to start work on ML-1 project at earliest

ISLAMABAD (APP): National Assembly Standing Committee on Railways Tuesday directed the authorities concerned to start the Mainline-1 (ML-1) project at the earliest after completing all the documents and necessary steps.

The committee that met here with Rai Hassan Nawaz Khan in the chair apprised that the phase-I would start in end of this year or in start of next year and would be completed within five years.

Secretary, Ministry of Railways briefed the Committee about the project of Main Line (ML-1).

Divisional Superintendents, Pakistan Railways, Lahore, Mughalpur, Peshawar and Rawalpindi briefed the Committee about encroachments and lease of Railways land.

They talked about non-cooperation of concerned district administration during anti-encroachment operations. The Committee recommended to approach the Provincial Governments for supporting during such operations. The Committee showed displeasure on presence of some officers on zoom and directed their presence in person in next meetings.



Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghaddam called on Chairman Federal Board of Revenue, Mr. Rashid Mahmood Langrial at FBR Headquarters in Islamabad

Railways offer 50% concession for disabled persons in trains fare

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan Railways is offering a 50 percent concession in rail fares to facilitate disabled persons traveling in all express and passenger trains, except the Green Line. "The concession is granted upon the presentation of the Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC) bearing the disability logo," an official in the Ministry of Railways told APP. He said that a 50 percent discount is also offered to the attendant accompanying visually impaired persons. About the facilities at Railway Stations and Reservation Offices, he said that wheelchairs are available at all major sta-

tions to assist disabled passengers. Additionally, the official said that exclusive reservation and booking counters have been designated for disabled persons at reservation offices.

The free-of-cost access to executive washrooms and restrooms has been provided at a few major stations for special persons. The official said that the facility of executive washrooms at 12 major stations is also being developed and will have free access for disabled passengers.

To a question, the official said that Khushal Khan Khattak Express was discontinued in March 2020 owing to COVID-19.

CM chairs 16th cabinet meeting, approves major projects including recruitment of 7,354 CTIs

LAHORE (APP): Punjab Chief Minister Maryam Nawaz Sharif presided over 16th provincial cabinet meeting in which the recruitment of 7,354 College Teaching Interns (CTIs) was approved across Punjab.

CM Maryam Nawaz Sharif sought a comprehensive and uniform housing policy across Punjab. The cabinet paid tribute to the police personnel on performing duty in Rahim Yar Khan and Katcha area. The cabinet approved special allowance for police personnel on performing duty in the Katcha area.

The Chief Minister stopped increasing hostel charges for working women across Punjab. The CM commended Irrigation Minister Kazim Pirzada and the Irrigation Department for no loss of life being caused due to the recent floods. The cabinet approved the issuance of Rs. 500 million 'Endowment Fund for Writers Welfare' under the auspices of the Information and Culture Department. The cabinet, appreciated the peaceful conduct of MDCAT examination in Punjab. It was apprised in the meeting that controversial questions are being raised on the conduct of MDCAT examination in other provinces besides Punjab.

The Chief Minister sought a monthly package plan for the differently-abled visually impaired persons. The cabinet approved a special court for persons with disabilities under the Punjab Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities Act. Conditional approval was given to delegate the powers of Sub-Registrar to the Tehsildar and Naib Tehsildar. The CM Punjab directed the Board of Revenue to submit a five-year comprehensive housing policy to the Cabinet.

The cabinet rejected the Working Women's Hostels policy for increasing charges by the Women Development Department. An approval was given to sign an MoU between the Government of Punjab and the United National Office for Project Services (UNOPS) during the meeting. An approval was granted to include Lahore Knowledge Park (Nawaz Sharif Limited City) Bedian Road under the scope of Punjab Central Business District Development Authority.

As a result, Majid has received his long-overdue dues. Rashid Ahmad, Advisor In-Charge of the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office in Abbottabad, emphasized that the Ombudsman's office addresses cases of maladministration within federal institutions.

Notices were issued to the concerned authorities at Virtual University, and following a thorough investigation, the Federal Ombudsman ruled in favor of the complainant. The university was directed to make the payment without further delay.



LAHORE: Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan in a group photo with delegation of District Faisalabad Bar Association led by President (PLF Punjab) Raheel Kamran Cheema at Governor House.

Federal Ombudsman secures payment resolution for Virtual University employee

ABBOTTABAD (APP): The timely intervention of Federal Ombudsman Ijaz Ahmad Qureshi has successfully resolved a payment dispute for Abdul Majid, an employee of Virtual University from Abbottabad.

As a result, Majid has received his long-overdue dues. Rashid Ahmad, Advisor In-Charge of the Federal Ombudsman Regional Office in Abbottabad, emphasized that the Ombudsman's office addresses cases of maladministration within federal institutions.

The issue arose when Abdul Majid filed a complaint with the Federal Ombudsman, citing that despite his resignation from Virtual University, his outstanding dues had not been paid, and the institution was causing unnecessary delays.

Notices were issued to the concerned authorities at Virtual University, and following a thorough investigation, the Federal Ombudsman ruled in favor of the complainant. The university was directed to make the payment without further delay.

All Teachers Association delegation called on Kundi, assures full support

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of All Teachers Association of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on Tuesday called on Governor Faisal Karim Kundi at the Governor's House.

The delegation, led by President Mian Faik Zada Kakakhel, discussed various educational issues and challenges faced by teachers in the province.

During the meeting, the delegation raised concerns about the state of educational institutions, demands for salary and benefits increases, the impact

of pension reforms, and other related issues.

Governor Kundi assured the delegation that promoting peace, women's empowerment, and youth engagement are among his top priorities, and that appropriate measures would be taken to address teachers' issues at the federal level. He emphasized that teachers are the architects of the nation and mentioned that provincial assembly member Ahmad Karim Kundi of PPP would play a role in supporting these concerns.

LHC moved for implementation of SC order on reserved seats

LAHORE (Online): Petition has been filed in Lahore High Court for implementation of Supreme Court (SC) order in respect of reserved seats.

A miscellaneous petition has been filed by one Munir Ahmad in LHC in connection with implementation of SC decision in the matter of reserved seats Tuesday.

The petitioner has taken the plea decision of 8-member bench of SC has come. This is detailed decision of SC and it has not been implemented. Letters have been written to speakers of all the four provincial assemblies.

1.2mn children enrolled in KP

PESHAWAR (APP): The enrollment of children in government schools continued in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa where about 1.2 million kids were admitted this year.

The spokesman of KP Elementary and Secondary Education Department told APP on Tuesday that efforts were underway to enroll three lakh more children in public sector schools this month.

He said that enrollment campaign would continue till September 30 in the province.

Punjab Governor says: Lawyers' always struggled to ensure political, constitutional stability in country

LAHORE: A delegation of District Faisalabad Bar Association led by President (PLF Punjab) Raheel Kamran Cheema called on Punjab Governor, Sardar Saleem Haider Khan at Governor House Lahore.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Punjab Sardar Saleem Haider Khan said that the lawyers' community has always struggled to ensure political and constitutional stability in the country. He said that the role of the lawyers' community in the restoration of democracy movement is commendable. Governor Punjab further said that the People's Party

has never been a part of any illegal amendment and will never be a part of it. He said that every section of the society, including lawyers, has to play a positive role for the betterment of the country. The delegation of Faisalabad Bar Association apprised the Governor Punjab about the formation of a separate High Court Bench for Faisalabad Division and other issues faced by the Bar. Governor Punjab assured the delegation to talk to the concerned quarters for the establishment of the High Court Bench. The delegation also invited the Governor Punjab to visit the Faisalabad Bar Association.



LAHORE: Ambassador of Japan to Pakistan WADA Mitsuhiro cutting the ribbon during inauguration ceremony of painting exhibition at Al-Hamra art Gallery, in the Provincial Capital.

UNICEF team meets KP health advisor; assures support in health sector

PESHAWAR (APP): A delegation of UNICEF officials called on the Advisor to Chief Minister Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) on Health, Ihtisham Ali here and congratulated him on assuming new role and provided a comprehensive briefing on UNICEF's support for the Health Department. The UNICEF team was led by Dr Inam Ullah, alongside Immunization Officer Dr Kamran Qureshi, Additional Director General Public Health Dr Shahid Younas, Director Nutrition Dr Fazal Majeed and Director Maternal and Child Healthcare Dr Khizar Hayat, said a

press release issued here Tuesday.

During the meeting, Dr Inam Ullah He outlined the various areas in which UNICEF was providing technical and financial assistance to the department and discussed installation and maintenance of oxygen plants in 10 districts across the province. The Advisor was also briefed on the Integrated Service Delivery Program currently being implemented in the southern districts with UNICEF's support. Dr Inam Ullah highlighted UNICEF's collaboration in improving maternal health services, specifically in Torghar district.



HYDERABAD: Student of Government Girls Urdu Primary School Hali road studying on the floor due to furniture not available.

190 million pounds reference: Cross questioning of last witness adjourned due to absence of counsel for Bushra

RAWALPINDI (Online): The cross questioning of last witness in 190 million pounds financial scandal against PTI founder Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi was postponed due to absence of counsel for Bushra Bibi in Accountability Court (AC) Islamabad.

The court adjourned hearing of the case till today (Wednesday).

Both the accused and their lawyers were present in the court during the hearing of the case.

Associate lawyers of the accused while requesting for adjourning the hearing told that the counsel for Bushra Bibi is unwell and he cannot appear in the court due to ailment. NAB prosecutor opposed the adjournment of hearing. NAB prosecutor was of view that 12 lawyers have filed their power of attorney from the side of the accused. The last witness of reference is appearing in 23 hearings regularly but cross questioning is not being completed.

Murder convict arrested from Karachi after 19 years on the run

KARACHI (INP): The Azad Kashmir police have arrested a condemned murderer from Karachi who had managed to escape from Muzaffarabad's Central Jail taking advantage of October 8, 2005 deadly earthquake. According to details, a police team from Muzaffarabad arrested Aurangzeb Siddiqui from Karachi.

Siddiqui had murdered religious scholar Mian Fazal Elahi in 1997. Mian Fazal Elahi was performing ablution in a mosque when he was murdered by Siddiqui. After conclusion of his trial, the court found him guilty of murder and awarded him capital punishment.

But during the October 8, 2005 devastating earthquake, the entire building of Muzaffarabad Central Jail was collapsed and the murder convict managed to escape. A complaint was filed against him at Pathakawa Kahwari Police Station in Naseerabad Tehsil of Muzaffarabad.

International News

New Israeli strikes on Lebanon as death toll from Monday attacks surges to 558

GAZA: Israel announced dozens of new air strikes on what it said were Hezbollah strongholds in Lebanon on Tuesday, a day after 558 people, including 50 children, were killed in the deadliest bombardment since a devastating war in 2006. Israel's overnight strikes on southern Lebanon came after it said it had killed a "large number" of fighters when it hit about 1,600 suspected Hezbollah targets around the country. Hezbollah said it had launched volleys of missiles at Israeli military bases, hours after 180 of its projectiles and an unmanned aerial vehicle crossed into Israeli airspace, sending people in the city of Haifa running for shelter.

The Israeli military said more than 50 projectiles were fired into northern Israel in less than 10 minutes on Tuesday morning, most of which were intercepted. In Lebanon, Monday's raids killed 492 people, including 35 children and 58 women, and wounded 1,645, according to the health ministry, which said "thousands of families" had fled their homes. People in Israel's coastal city of Haifa were seen running for cover on Monday when air raid sirens sounded.

"Everyone is heading (to Lebanese capital Beirut) with their children and their belongings — it's the first time we see such panic since 2006," said Lebanese journalist Nazir Reda, who was driving to his hometown near the Israeli border to get his family away from the violence.

Longtime foes Hezbollah and Israel have been locked in near-daily cross-border exchanges of fire for nearly a year, since October 7.

Hezbollah, which has been fighting Israel for decades, and other Iran-backed fighters in the region have been drawn into the violence. Monday's bombardment of Lebanon was by far the largest, not just in the past year, but since the Israel-Hezbollah war in the summer of 2006. That war killed 1,200 people in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis, most of them soldiers, and devastated large swathes of Hezbollah's strongholds. Pakistan condemned the Israeli aggression "in the strongest possible terms". A statement from the Foreign Office (FO) said the act of aggression was a "grave violation" of the UN Charter and international law. "It is a dangerous escalation that has further endangered peace and security in an already volatile region," the FO added.

Speaking at the session in New York, Biden, who has come under fire for his administration's unconditional support

against Hezbollah sites in Lebanon on Monday, which Lebanese authorities said had killed 492 people and sent tens of thousands fleeing for safety in the country's deadliest day in decades. Wang said no matter how the situation changes, China would continue to stand on the "side of justice and on the side of Arab brothers, including Lebanon". "We pay close attention to the development of the regional situation, especially the recent explosion of communication equipment in Lebanon.

China 'firmly supports' Lebanon in safeguarding its security

HONG KONG: China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib on Monday that Beijing firmly supported Lebanon in safeguarding its sovereignty and security and strongly condemned violations against Israel's large scale airstrike. Wang and Habib met in New York where they exchanged views on the situation in the Middle East, according to a statement from China's Foreign Ministry. Israel's military said it launched airstrikes

Tropical Storm John lashes Mexican coast, two killed in mudslide

MEXICO CITY: Tropical Storm John unleashed heavy rains along Mexico's southern Pacific coast as it moved inland on Tuesday morning, threatening dangerous flooding and causing at least two deaths in a mudslide. Stretching across several Mexican states, the storm uprooted trees and electrical posts and damaged roofs, officials told reporters at a briefing on Tuesday. The affected area is home to both cargo ports and some of the country's top beach resorts. Around two-thirds of local power users were without electricity and phone service was also hit, officials said. Video posted on social media showed sheets of rain pummeling empty streets overnight near the large Lazaro Cardenas port.



Rescuers inspect the debris at the site of an overnight Israeli strike on a pharmacy in the southern Lebanese village of Akbiyeh.

Joe Biden highlights two-state solution in his last address as US President at UNGA

GENEVA: In his last address at the UNGA as US president, Joe Biden said a two-state solution with a Palestinian state, in which Palestinians can live peacefully, is the only way to ensure permanent peace, as Israel continues to escalate violence by attacking Lebanon.

Speaking at the session in New York, Biden, who has come under fire for his administration's unconditional support

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to Israel, as it commits acts of genocide in the Gaza Strip, said it was time for a cease-fire in Gaza.

He said that "innocent civilians" in the blockaded Palestinian enclave were "going through hell," adding that now was the time for Israel and Hamas to agree to a cease-fire and hostage deal.

The deal would "bring the hostages home and secure security for Israel" and ease the suffering in Gaza and end this war.

Iran seeks to calm Iraqi infighting over spy row as region flares up

BAGHDAD: Iran's Quds Force commander told Iraqi political leaders last week to ease criticism of the prime minister who has been embroiled in a row over spying allegations, sources said, seeking to steady a regional ally as conflict in the Middle East flares.

Esmail Qaani made the request during a visit to Baghdad, according to seven Iraqi sources, including people in political parties whose leaders the Iranian commander met. A regional diplomat confirmed the account.

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US, Canada to negotiate maritime boundary in Beaufort Sea

WASHINGTON: The United States and Canada on Tuesday said they will create a task force this autumn to negotiate the maritime boundary in the Beaufort Sea and resolve the overlap along the continental shelf. The group will work toward a final agreement covering the border area, which lies north of Alaska and the Canadian provinces of Yukon.

Turkey's Erdogan calls for US to lift sanctions hindering defence purchases

ANKARA: Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan called for US sanctions blocking some defence purchases by his country and for other "unilateral" measures that hinder the NATO allies' ability to hit long-term bilateral trade targets to be lifted. Ties between the allies have been strained over a host of issues in recent years, ranging from policy differences in the eastern Mediterranean, Syria and Ankara's purchase of Russian S-400 air defence systems, which prompted the US sanctions and Turkey's removal from the F-35 fighter jet programme in 2019.

After that, Ankara

worked to procure 40 Block-70 F-16 fighter jets and 79 modernisation kits from Washington. The deal was approved after Turkey's blessing of Sweden's NATO bid, which also led to a thaw in relations. Ankara and Washington have a long-term goal of \$100 billion in bilateral trade, up from about \$30 billion in 2023.

During a visit to New York for the UN General Assembly, Erdogan told Gaza and Ankara's businesspeople that though he believed the goal would be possible to meet, cooperation in defence industry had "fallen very short" of its potential due to the remaining restrictions.

A UN expert says Russian convicts sent to war in Ukraine commit crimes when they return

GENEVA: A U.N.-backed human rights expert on Monday decried violence in Russia by former convicts whose sentences are commuted to fight in Ukraine who then return home to commit crimes including rape and murder.

Mariana Katzarova, who is monitoring rights in President Vladimir Putin's Russia under a mandate from the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, said the return home to Russia of former criminals who have had their legal slates wiped clean is adding to more domestic violence.

The phenomenon first emerged last year among returning fighters, but Katzarova noted that pardons and shortened sentences in Russia for prisoners who agree to fight in Ukraine became law in Russia in March. Speaking to reporters, Katzarova said an estimated 170,000 convicted violent criminals have been recruited to fight in Ukraine. "Many of them who return—and this is an emerging trend—have been perpetrating new violent

crimes to begin with against women, against girls, against children, including sexual violence and killings," she said in Geneva, where the council is holding its autumn session.

"This has increased, the violence against women in Russia, which already is on a very high level with thousands of women dying each year as a result of domestic violence," she said. "There is no law in Russia distinctly criminalizing domestic violence or gender-based violence." Russia's war in Ukraine is in its third year, and the Kremlin has gone to great lengths to replenish its troops there. In 2022, the authorities mobilized some 300,000 men in a partial call-up, and human rights groups and media also reported an effort to recruit inmates serving time in prisons across the vast country. Initially, the recruitment was carried out by the Wagner mercenary group, but then Russia's Defense Ministry took over, according to activists and media reports.

Pak-China agreed for working together to complete mega projects

ISLAMABAD (APP): Pakistan and China will work together for the completion of ML-1, M-6 and M-9 projects in order to strengthen trade and economic cooperation between both the countries.

While 2nd Phase of KKH and construction of Kaghan Naran, Jhal Khand, Babusar Top and Tunnel till Karakrum Highway will also be constructed.

The consensus to this effect was developed in a meeting between Minister for Communications Abdul Aleem Khan and Transport Minister of China Li Xiapeng during International Transport Conference, which was held at Beijing.

Both the ministers held a detail discussion and

agreed on 4 mega projects to be completed in Pakistan, said a press release.

According to the details Minister for Communications, Privatization & Board of Investment Abdul Aleem Khan reached Beijing where an hour long discussions and meeting was held with Chinese Minister for Transport Mr. Li Xiapeng who welcomed him warmly and expressed deep interest in Joint Ventures and working together for these important projects.

In the meeting Public Private Partnership and other financial modalities were came under discussion. It is mentionable that missing links of CPEC projects will be completed which include Motorway from Sukkhar to Haider

Abad and Karachi.

Similarly, railway project of ML-1 Seaport to Multan and to Lahore, Karakrum Highway Thakot to Raikot and Highway of Kaghan Naran, Jhal Khand and Babusar Top will also be constructed.

Abdul Aleem Khan thanked China for its cooperation and expressed hope that this International Conference on Transport will merge more benefits and development for Pakistan.

Transport Minister of China Mr. Li Xiapeng assured full cooperation from his Department for Pakistan in future, as well. In the meeting Ambassador of Pakistan in China Khalil Hashmi was also present along with senior officers from both the countries.



ISLAMABAD: Federal Minister for Commerce Jam Kamal Khan addressing to the 7th Session of Joint Ministerial Commission between Pakistan and Belarus.

Sindh government allocates Rs 434m for restoration of Islamkot's RO Plant: Ghani

Independent Report

KARACHI: Sindh Minister for Local Government and Public Health Engineering, Saeed Ghani, has said the provincial government has allocated a sum of Rs 434 million for the restoration of reverse osmosis water filtration plant in Islamkot, as this allocation is not for any new development project. The Local Government and Public Health Engineering Minister informed this while answering queries of the lawmakers during the question hour of the Sindh Assembly's session on Tuesday.

He told the concerned legislators that Islamkot's RO plant is a mega water filtration facility having the

capacity to filter 1.5 million gallons of water daily. He said the RO plant had been non-functional due to various technical issues.

He informed the house that the Engro Corporation had asked the Sindh government to sanction Rs 1400 million for the revival and operation of the RO plant. The then-provincial cabinet approved the grant, but another assistance of Rs 600 million couldn't be provided, which was required to operate the plant for four years.

He told the house that the former caretaker Sindh chief minister during his visit to Islamkot, formed a committee to evaluate the financial support required to restore the plant.

No decision yet about Imran Khan's military trial, govt tells IHC

ISLAMABAD (INP): The Islamabad High Court (IHC) on Tuesday disposed of the petition filed by former prime minister and PTI founder Imran Khan, seeking a court order to the government not to hold his military trial in May 9-related cases when it was informed that the government had not taken any such decision as yet. Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb heard the petition.

Additional Attorney-General (AAG) Munawar Iqbal Duggal and a representative of the Ministry of Defence appeared in the court, while Uzair Bhindari and Faisal Farid Chaudhry represented the former prime minister.

Name of Pervaiz Elahi removed from PCL under court order

LAHORE (Online): Name of former Chief Minister (CM) Punjab and PTI leader Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and others have been removed from Passport Control List (PCL) under the orders of Lahore High Court (LHC).

Justice Shams Mehmood Mirza of LHC took up for hearing the contempt of court pleas filed by Chaudhry Pervaiz Elahi and others Tuesday.

The petitioner took the plea name is not being removed from PCL and Exit Control List (ECL) despite court's orders. The court should order for initiating contempt of court proceedings against the officers.

PIA issues clarification on recent flights incident

KARACHI (INP): Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) has issued a clarification regarding recent flight incidents, dismissing rumors of operational mishaps and reinforcing its adherence to international safety regulations.

As per PIA spokesperson statement, a warning about low cabin air pressure was triggered during flight PK 213 from Karachi to Dubai, as per standard operating procedures (SOPs), the captain safely descended the aircraft to 10,000 feet and landed it in Dubai 15 minutes later.

The spokesperson further stated that upon inspection, the crew found the warning was a false alarm, and the aircraft was cleared to fly back after necessary checks.

SAU-ORIC hosts field workshop on banana export

HYDERABAD (APP): The Office of Research, Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) at Sindh Agriculture University (SAU) Tandojam, hosted a high-impact, one-day field workshop focusing on banana export through cold storage technologies.

The workshop, titled "Farm to Freezer: The Vital Role of Cold Storage in Banana Export," took place at the Rashidi Fruit Farm near Khesana Mori.

According to a SAU spokesperson, led by Dr. Tanveer Fatima Miano, Director of ORIC, the workshop attracted a diverse group of postgraduate students eager to gain expertise.

Dr. Miano, along with Shabir Shah Rashidi, CEO of Rashidi Fruit Farm and an SAU alumnus, delivered comprehensive training sessions regarding the cold storage in this modern banana farm.

Ahsan pushes for digitalization of Planning Ministry's operations in one year

ISLAMABAD (APP): Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission of Pakistan Professor Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday highlighted the importance of transitioning the entire Planning Ministry's operations online to meet the demands of the modern era, terming "crucial" for ensuring transparency, preventing resource wastage and improving governance.

"We must focus on bringing all of the ministry's operations online within a year," he said while chairing a review meeting of ongoing development projects under the Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Parliamentary Secretary for Planning Wajaha Akram, a news release said.

Ahsan Iqbal advocated for the inclusion of private sector consultants to enhance the performance of the Ministry's ongoing projects, adding, "The expertise of the private sector will be instrumental in improving project management and execution."

He also called for a critical review of ongoing projects, advising that those not contributing to governmental efficiency should be terminated.

He stressed the need for a more efficient and modernized approach to project planning and approval processes.



KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister, Syed Murad Ali Shah exchanges views with PPP MPA Saleem Baloch during meeting held at CM House in Karachi.

ECP Sindh finalises preparations for LG by-elections

KARACHI (INP): The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) Sindh finalised preparations for local government (LG) by-elections on 77 municipal seats across the province.

According to details, the by-elections will also be held on four vacant chairman seats, two vacant chairman seats and four ward councillor seats.

The sources said that the ECP Sindh chapter has already submitted the schedule to the ECP for approval. In its report, the ECP Sindh also sent the proposed names for district returning officers and returning officers.

The final schedule will be announced by the

ECP.

Earlier, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sultan Akram Raja said that the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is prepared to conduct the Local Government (LG) polls in Punjab.

The ECP, headed by the Chief Election Commissioner, held a high-level meeting in Islamabad to discuss preparations for the upcoming LG elections in Punjab.

Sultan Akram Raja said that the delimitation of constituencies in Punjab has already been completed. He said that the demarcation of UCs and wards in Islamabad will be finalised by July 23.

Qatari naval ship Al Khor arrives in Karachi to hold bilateral exercise with Pakistan Navy

KARACHI (INP): A Qatar naval ship named Al Khor arrived in the southern port city of Karachi this week to participate in a joint exercise and partake in bilateral trainings with the Pakistan Navy, a statement from the navy confirmed.

Pakistan regularly conducts bilateral exercises with the navies of friendly countries to enhance maritime cooperation, promote regional stability, and strengthen overall ties. These exercises focus on improving interoperability, tactical operations and counter-terrorism capabilities. Pakistan's navy also showcases its commitment through these exercises to collaborate with allies on maritime security efforts.

"The Qatari Ship will participate in a joint exercise Asad Al Bahr and bilateral training and discussions with Pakistan Navy counterparts during its stay at Karachi," the Pakistan Navy said in a statement on Monday. "Upon arrival, the ship was warmly welcomed by Pakistan Navy officers and sailors."

During the visit, the Qatari ship's commanding officer paid a visit to the mausoleum of Pakistan's founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah to pay homage to him. He also called on Pakistan Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Faisal Abbasi wherein the two officials discussed matters of mutual interest and enhancing bilateral relations.



KARACHI: Traders blocked the road during sit-in protest against extortion at Sadar area, in the Provincial Capital.

Reappointment of chairman HEC: IHC issues notice to PM, seeks reply

ISLAMABAD (Online): Islamabad High Court (IHC) while issuing notice to Prime Minister (PM) through principal secretary has sought reply on the petition against reappointment of chairman HEC Dr Mukhtar Ahmad.

IHC issued notice to federation through ministry of education and Dr Mukhtar.

Justice Miangul Hassan Aurangzeb while issuing notice to respondents have sought reply till October 01.

The written order regarding hearing of petition filed by associate professor of Islamia College Peshawar has been issued.

According to order the reappointment of chairman HEC as per August 7 notification of establishment division has been challenged

in the petition. Under section 65 of HEC ordinance, Dr Mukhtar has been appointed again chairman for one year.

According to counsel of the petitioner chairman HEC cannot be appointed again on this post and he cannot be reappointed till such time he participates in competition process and proves his capability.

According to counsel advertisement for newspapers was issued in connection with appointment against the post of chairman HEC but it was stopped without any process.

According to petitioner the notification regarding reappointment of Dr Mukhtar came after stopping the process. It is not correct as per rules.

Asif links stability in world to solution of Gaza-like conflicts

ISLAMABAD (INP): Minister of Defense Khawaja Asif on Monday said there will be no lasting peace and stability in world without solving Gaza-like conflicts.

During his speech at the Summit of the Future Plenary Session in UN General Assembly, Khawaja Asif said that collective efforts have to be made to meet the security challenges.

Khawaja Asif said that security issues are a threat to our coming generations, as well as to the world's lasting peace. He said that the global system needs reforms to provide better opportunities to more than 100 developing countries.

He said that as an international community, we have a role to play in setting a better course for our world.

The minister further said that international financial institutions should provide debt relief to poor nations as well as these institutions should cooperate [financially] with the developing countries.

Protesting nursing students linked to previous violence: LUMHS administration

HYDERABAD (APP): The administration of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Sciences (LUMHS), Jamshoro has clarified that the nursing students protesting at the university's administration block are representatives of a group involved in a recent physical assault on nursing students at the College of Technology.

In response to the incident, the university has initiated an inquiry and suspended the students' admissions, while a legal action has also been initiated by the parents of the affected students at the Jamshoro police station.

According to LUMHS media coordinator, the protest was an attempt to pressurize the administration into halting disciplinary actions.

However, the administration made it clear that they will not compromise, so that to prevent such violent incidents in the future.

Update on Rs750 prize bond draw date in Pakistan

KARACHI (INP): Prize bonds continue to be a favored investment option for hundreds of thousands of Pakistanis, providing a safe means of saving money while offering a chance to win significant prizes.

Managed by the Central Directorate of National Savings since the 1960s, the prize bond scheme is operated in collaboration with the central bank, which oversees its administration.

The scheme aims to generate funds for the government while offering common citizens a secure method of saving their money without risk of devaluation.

National Savings holds lucky draws every three months, giving participants an opportunity to win prizes.

The upcoming draw for the Rs750 prize bond is scheduled to take place on October 15, 2024, in Faisalabad at the National Savings Division office.

The prize amounts for this bond are as follows: First Prize: Rs1,500,000 (1 winner); Second Prize: Rs500,000 (3 winners); and Third Prize: Rs9,300 (1,696 winners).

SC reserves verdict on Punjab's election tribunals petition

ISLAMABAD (APP): The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the appeal of Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) against the decision of Lahore High Court (LHC) about the formation of election tribunals in Punjab.

A five-member bench headed by Chief Justice of Pakistan Qazi Faez Isa heard the appeal.

During the course of proceedings, Chief Justice Isa observed that the number of election tribunals depended on the number of cases. It would be unfair if the number of judges were less than that of cases.

Addressing Salman Akram Raja, the chief justice asked whether he needed two judges for the tribunal and whether he was supporting the LHC's previous decision.

Justice Aqeel Abbasi remarked that as per the ECP's reply, the issue of election tribunals had been resolved in consultation with the LHC.

Electricity bills have to be paid or otherwise, this will now be decided through referendum

LAHORE (Online): JI Amir Hafiz Naeem ur Rehman has said it will be decided through a referendum now if the electricity bills have to be paid or otherwise.

He said this while addressing a press conference here in Mansoor Tuesday.

I am announcing second phase of "Haq awam ko" movement. This is movement for giving rights and relief to people. This movement is against inflated electricity bills, price of petroleum products and taxes on the salaries.

We will launch new resistance movement after October 7. We will stage protest dharnas and rallies.

We have option for million march which can transform into long march.

Had JI not launched movement government would not have given relief of Rs 14 per unit and instead they would have raised the tariff of electricity further, he held.

Small vehicles be given to ministers and their privileges be abolished.

Billions of rupees are being paid to IPPs annually. Electricity was generated but was not consumed. Its cost is being paid by the people.

On one side taxes are being recovered from salary class and on the other side tax exemption was given to some IPPs which



HYDERABAD: People busy in filling their cans with clean water from tap at Latifabad.



SOUTH WAZIRISTAN: Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Asim Munir laying floral wreath at the Shuhada Monument during his visit to Wana in South Waziristan.

Pak committed to enhance cooperation with Maldives in diverse fields: PM

UNITED NATIONS (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to enhancing cooperation with the Maldives in the fields of trade, tourism, education, investment and climate change.

He was talking to President of the Maldives Dr Muizzu on the sidelines of the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

During the meeting, both leaders underscored

the deep-rooted ties between Pakistan and the Maldives.

Both leaders agreed on the need for increased people-to-people exchanges and collaborative efforts to promote economic growth and sustainable development in their respective countries.

The two sides also recognized the shared responsibility of South Asian nations to work together for peace, prosperity, and stability of the region.

Vital to stay with reform agenda: FM Aurangzeb

LAHORE (APP): Federal Minister for Finance Muhammad Aurangzeb on Tuesday said that for moving forward it was vital to stay with reform agenda whether it's from taxation side, energy side, state owned enterprises and privatisation side.

He said this while virtually addressing the High Level Private Sector Dialogue on "Leveraging Private Capital for CPEC II and the Region" at a local hotel.

The dialogue was organized by the recently established Pakistan Regional Economic Forum (PREF) in partnership with Embassy of China.

He said, "In terms of macroeconomic situation where we ended the last fiscal year that trajectory con-

tinues into first quarter of this fiscal year."

Foreign exchange reserves which were now more than two months import cover, inflation had come down, he maintained.

M u h a m m a d Aurangzeb said, "More importantly policy rate is coming down. Few days back the government has rejected all bids aimed at conveying the message that with the grace of Allah Almighty, the government is under no desperation to borrow, and if it has to borrow, it will borrow at its own terms." Banking sector should start lending to the private sector, he added.

He said that ultimately it was all about foreign direct investment which came into the country.



HYDERABAD: Residents of Shahdarpur are holding protest demonstration against high handedness of police, at Hyderabad press club.

Don't be fooled by India's false narrative on Kashmir, Wani to foreign diplomats

GENEVA (INP): Altaf Hussain Wani, Chairman of the Kashmir Institute of International Relations, has stated that India's orchestration of assembly elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir aims to mislead international opinion and propagate a false narrative of normalcy. In a joint communique to foreign diplomats invited to witness the election process, Wani emphasized that the region's grim situation is a matter of international significance.

Wani referred to UNSC resolutions adopted since 1947, which affirm that Jammu and Kashmir's final disposition must be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite under UN auspices. He cautioned diplomats that their visit might be used by India to project legitimacy and normalcy, rather than reflecting Kashmiri concerns.

Wani urged diplomats to recognize restrictions on accessing local populations and human rights victims, support a UN fact-finding mission in Kashmir, permit international human rights organizations to monitor violations and secure the early release of political leaders, activists, and human rights defenders. He hoped their visit will bring attention to the need for genuine dialogue prioritizing Kashmiri voices and aspirations.